

Small Group & Personal Study: 24/7 Discipleship Series – Our Daily Devotion

Memory Verse: John 8:31-32

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Daily Reading: (A Study on the Word of God)

Day 1 – Nehemiah 8:1-18 (Devoted to the Word)

Day 2 – Psalm 19 (The Perfect Word)

Day 3 – 2 Peter 1:12-21 (Eyewitness to the Fulfillment of Prophecy)

Day 4 – 1 Thessalonians 2:13 & 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (The Power of the Word)

Day 5 – John 14:1-31 (The Spirit of Truth)

Day 6 – James 1:19-25 (Listening and Doing)

Day 7 – Matthew 4:1-11 (Jesus Example)

Lesson:

In John 8:31 Jesus spoke to those who believed in Him. He said "if you **hold** to my teachings you are really my disciples." The Greek word used here is "memo" which means to abide or to dwell in. Jesus is telling us to dwell in His teachings. This is very instructive into our need to have a daily time of meditation with God's Word.

Jesus spoke about truth often and the power it brings. He said in John 18:37 that He came into the world to testify to truth. He even declared in John 14:6 that He is the Truth. Understanding and knowing Truth comes only from searching God's Word and allowing The Spirit of Truth to reveal Truth to you (John 14:16-17, 26). Jesus promised that the Truth will set us free (John 8:32).

1. How have you experienced the Truth at work in your life and how has dwelling in the truth freed you?

When I allow God's Spirit and Truth to speak into my life and I take it in and trust it as truth, God reassures me of His amazing grace and unconditional forgiveness. I have found that in those times when I dwell in the Truth that I no longer fight doubt, fear, guilt, and even temptation. It is when I remove myself from abiding in His word that all of those things can take root in my life.

2. Share with your group one verse or message God spoke to you through His word in your reading this past week and what you hear Him saying.

I hope you are each reading the word of God every day. I have been reading through the book of Jeremiah and God has spoken many things to me from His word. One message I read again today (and just shared last Friday as well) in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." In this verse God keeps reminding me if I will ask, seek, and knock he will reveal the truth to me. That truth will continue to set me free.

3. Share with the group how your daily meditation time is going. What has been the biggest blessing of a quiet daily time with God?

Allow your group to encourage and challenge one another in love. Listen to see who may need personal encouragement and support in spending time with God.

4. What challenges are you facing in your quiet time with God? How can others pray specifically for you in this matter?

I always face distractions. The urgent tempts me to replace the important. I must remember who and what is most important in my life. My relationship with my Lord must be the hub of the wheel and all things flow from that relationship. Therefore making my time with God a top priority is of utmost importance.

The Discipline of Meditating on Scripture: This week to help you meditate on the word of God let me give you some practical suggestions that will help you allow the Holy Spirit to unleash divine power and wisdom for your life.

One suggestion is to consider adopting a daily Bible reading schedule. These weekly studies offer a daily reading schedule which may work well for you or you may choose to select your own reading.

The best way I have personally found to meditate on God's Word is by following these simple, but powerful, steps:

- 1) Select a private personal time and quiet location that you can listen to and meditate upon God's word.
- 2) For many of us, beginning your meditation time with a time of private worship can prepare your heart to listen and receive the truth. I often do this by first listening to worship music before my time of reading and meditation on the word of God. We will deal more with this next week.
- 3) Begin by asking the Holy Spirit to speak into your heart through His word, giving you whatever He wants you to hear that day.
- 4) Begin to read. Read carefully and slowly. You may need to read some verses twice or more. Read for quality not quantity. Read until God stops you with a verse or with a word that He wanted you to hear (that maybe only one verse into it or it maybe two or three chapters later). Stop and meditate on that verse even if you go no further.
- 5) When God gives you something to remember, highlight the verse or underline the words so you will be reminded of this message from God to you as you go back later.
- 6) As God leads you, journal what He is telling you back to Him in the form of a prayer.
- 7) Watch and see how God uses that verse or message in your life encounters throughout the week to either lift you up, change your attitude and behaviors or perhaps to prepare you to minister through His word to another who needs to hear it. I often find that when God lays a specific verse of message on my heart, it comes up over and over again in discussions and in teachings that week.

Starting on a Bible Reading Schedule

If you are new to reading the Bible I might suggest beginning in one of the four the Gospels of Jesus Christ. Specifically the Gospel of Mark or the Gospel of John are great places to begin your study of the Word. I encourage you to read for depth not quantity. Perhaps reading through the Psalms as a daily devotion will get you into the habit of meditating on the Word of God. There are many methods out there to read through the scriptures in a year. Some people prefer to reading through the Bible from front to back, although this method can be difficult to stay with for some. Other people prefer using a daily devotional reading that usually follows the calendar and includes a passage of scripture and a thought for the day. Whatever you choose, reading the word allows God to speak into your heart and transform your life.

This chart lists all of the books of the Bible in order from Old Testament to New Testament.

<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis	<input type="checkbox"/> Job	<input type="checkbox"/> Micah	<input type="checkbox"/> Galatians
<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm	<input type="checkbox"/> Nahum	<input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians
<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus	<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs	<input type="checkbox"/> Habakkuk	<input type="checkbox"/> Philippians
<input type="checkbox"/> Numbers	<input type="checkbox"/> Ecclesiastes	<input type="checkbox"/> Zephaniah	<input type="checkbox"/> Colossians
<input type="checkbox"/> Deuteronomy	<input type="checkbox"/> Song of Solomon	<input type="checkbox"/> Haggai	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Thessalonians
<input type="checkbox"/> Joshua	<input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah	<input type="checkbox"/> Zechariah	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Thessalonians
<input type="checkbox"/> Judges	<input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah	<input type="checkbox"/> Malachi	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 & 2 Timothy
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruth	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew	<input type="checkbox"/> Titus
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 & 2 Samuel	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark	<input type="checkbox"/> Philemon
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 & 2 Kings	<input type="checkbox"/> Daniel	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke	<input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chronicles	<input type="checkbox"/> Hosea	<input type="checkbox"/> John	<input type="checkbox"/> James
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chronicles	<input type="checkbox"/> Joel	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 & 2 Peter
<input type="checkbox"/> Ezra	<input type="checkbox"/> Amos	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans	<input type="checkbox"/> 1, 2, & 3 John
<input type="checkbox"/> Nehemiah	<input type="checkbox"/> Obadiah	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians	<input type="checkbox"/> Jude
<input type="checkbox"/> Esther	<input type="checkbox"/> Jonah	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians	<input type="checkbox"/> Revelation

- Which have you read and become familiar with?
- Which books do you need refreshing on?
- Which are books God may want to bring you into next?