

DEVOTION

New Disciplines

The believers studied what the apostles taught. They shared their lives together. They ate and prayed together. **ACTS 2:42**

WORDS from the WORD

DEVOTION

being sincerely dedicated to something or to someone

SCRIPTURE

God's word; the Bible



What made the early disciples strong in their faith was their devotion to God. This means that they loved Jesus so much that He was the most important person to them. They met regularly to listen to His word and pray.

The more we spend time with others, the more we get to know them and the stronger our relationship with them becomes. It is the same with our relationship with God. For our relationship to grow, we need to communicate with Him always. The two most important ways to do this are to read the Bible and to pray. When we read the Bible, God talks to us. When we pray, we talk to God about anything we feel or think about.

THE WORD

The Bible is God's letter to us. He used men to write His word as they were led by the Holy Spirit. If the Bible is God's word, then it is completely true and without mistakes.

2 Timothy 3:16,17

16God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right. 17By using Scripture, the servant of God can be completely prepared to do every good thing.

Fun Bible Facts

Did you know that about

50

Bibles are sold every minute? The Bible has sold more copies than any other book in history!

The Bible was
Purposes

1600 40

originally written in three different languages

HEBREW ARAMAIC GREEK

in over

years by around

men, most of them living hundreds of years apart. Still, they all tell the story of God and His people!

Here's how the Bible helps strengthen our relationship with God:

1

It helps us know God better.

By reading the Bible, we begin to understand who God is. Also, we see His character, His nature, what He can do, and what pleases Him and displeases Him. We begin to understand how much He loves us and how much we can trust Him. The more we know Him, the more we will follow Him.

Romans 10:17 (ICB)

So faith comes from hearing the Good News. And people hear the Good News when someone tells them about Christ.

2

It helps us grow spiritually.

Babies need to drink milk. They depend on the milk to help them become strong and healthy. In the same way, when we live our new life in Jesus, we need to read the Bible the way a baby longs for milk—always looking for it so we can grow strong spiritually.

The more we read and obey His word, the stronger our faith will grow.

1 Peter 2:2,3

²Like newborn babies, you should long for the pure milk of God's word. It will help you grow up as believers. ³You can do this now that you have tasted how good the Lord is.

3

It helps us live the life He wants for us.

The Bible contains the many wonderful plans God has for our lives. He also shows us in the Bible the way we should live in order for us to experience the life He wants for us. We need to read the Bible every day and put God's word into our minds and hearts so that we will not forget God and His ways. We also need to obey His word.

Psalms 119:9,11 (ERV)

⁹How can a young person live a pure life? By obeying your word. . . ¹¹I study your teachings very carefully so that I will not sin against you.

Remember

God's word helps us grow in our relationship with Him every day.

WHAT IS S.O.A.P.?

This is a popular way of doing your daily Bible reading and journaling. It stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. This is how to do it!

- 1 Set a time and place to read the Bible every day.
- 2 Follow a Bible-reading plan. Set a specific number of chapters to read every day.
- 3 Practice S.O.A.P.

S

SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 17:32-51
1 Samuel 17:47

Read a portion of the Scripture slowly and thoughtfully several times. Choose the verses that spoke to you the most and write them down.

O

OBSERVATION

- David was so confident in battle because he knew that God was with him.
- He knew that it was God's battle.

Reflect on the Scripture. Write down what you think the Scripture says about God and the people in the passage. Ask and answer questions based on the passage: who, what, when, where, why, and how. What ideas and words stand out to you?

A

APPLICATION

- God is with me, so I will not be afraid.
- I will rely on God because He fights for me.

If there is a truth about God that you should believe and remember, an attitude you should change, a sin to turn away from, a promise to claim, an example to follow, or a command to obey, write them down.

P

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for always being with me no matter what. Please give me the courage to face hard things. Holy Spirit, please remind me that the battle belongs to the Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Respond to God's word in prayer.

PRAYER

Christianity is more than following a set of rules or a list of dos and don'ts. It is a relationship with God. Communication is important in making our relationship with Him stronger.

God talks to us in many ways, but mainly through the Bible. When we read the Bible, we learn to listen to the sound of God's voice. We talk to Him through prayer. God listens to us when we pray. God answers our prayers according to His best plans for our lives, and we respond to His word through obedience.

Jesus is our example. He told us to pray to the Father, not to anyone else. He also showed us how we are to pray through Jesus because He is the only way to the Father.

Matthew 6:6

“When you pray, go into your room. Close the door and pray to your Father, who can't be seen. Your Father will reward you, because he sees what you do secretly.”

John 14:6 (ESV)

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Remember

Prayer is talking to God and knowing Him as our Father.

The goal of prayer is not to be seen or heard by others. We are talking to our Father, not putting up a show.

Jesus also says we should keep our prayers simple. It doesn't matter if our prayers are long or short. God knows what is in our hearts and He knows what we mean.

Jesus gave us a pattern for praying (Matthew 6:9–13).

“Our Father in heaven . . .”

“. . . may your name be honored.”

“May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven.”

“Give us today our daily bread.”

“And forgive us our sins, just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us.”

“Keep us from sinning when we are tempted. Save us from the evil one.”

God, who is all-powerful, wants to show Himself to us as a loving Father.

God is holy. We should have deep respect for Him.

God is our King. We should live according to what He commands.

We can trust God to provide what we need daily.

God is forgiving. He wants us to receive His forgiveness first, and because of that we can forgive other people.

God is our rescuer. He will keep us from evil and help us know the right thing to do whenever we feel like doing something bad.

As we read and obey the word and pray and trust God with our lives, let us not forget that God really answers prayers.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- When and where do you read the Bible and pray daily? Have you
- joined a Victory group?
- Have you forgiven everyone who has hurt you?
- Begin praying for what God wants for you and your family.