

Devotions For Students

The Word At Work

DEVOTION 1

Let's get it out of the way right now, shall we? Let's cut right to the chase on the front end of this thing.

When you hear the words "Bible study" or "Quiet time" what thoughts come to mind? How would you describe your reaction? Seriously. Don't just pass this by. Take a moment and look at the choices below. When you think of spending time reading your Bible, what response best applies to how you feel?

- I get pretty pumped about it.**
- It's OK, I guess.**
- No reaction really at all. Kind of like . . . blah.**
- I'm pretty turned off. Overwhelmed. Bored. I just don't get it.**

So, here's the deal: Starting out here is not a bad place, no matter what your response was. The important thing is that you actually think about your attitude toward the Bible, and that you consider doing something about it.

Something to think about:

Do this over the next few days. (For real.) Ask God to work on you and your attitude toward knowing the Bible better. Ask Him to awaken a desire in you to actually WANT to meet Him in the pages of the Bible. And ask with the expectancy that He will do it.

DEVOTION 2

"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" -- Psalms 42:1-2

What does this verse have to do with God's Word you ask? Good question.

A healthy approach to God's Word starts with a love for God. See, you have to value God before you can begin to have a positive, joyful approach to digging into the Bible. Knowing God has to be important to you. But it also has to be more than just gaining knowledge of God.

Look how the psalmist talks about his feelings toward God. *He says that he loves God the way a thirsty deer loves water.* The deer loves water because it is life! If the deer doesn't get to the stream, it dies. Do you look at God that way? Do you desire Him so badly that not being with Him feels like a life or death situation? Something to think about, isn't it?

But the real takeaway here is the question in verse 2. "*Where can I go to meet God?*" What a question! And the answer for us is why we're talking about these verses in the first place. God's Word, the Bible, is the main way God has chosen for us to be able to encounter Him. It's the pathway He gave us to use to meet Him.

We have to reframe the way we think about Bible study. We have to stop seeing it as a habit, a chore, or a check-box that "good Christians" must check off each day. We have to begin to see it as an opportunity to meet God face-to-face!

Your challenge is to begin to change the way you think about the Bible. Knowing God is important. And His Word, the Bible, is the best way for us to grow closer to Him. Let that sink in this week as you go through each day.

DEVOTION 3

Take a few moments today and use the space below (or your own journal or note taking app) to write a note to God. Seriously. Write a note to God telling Him the three things that keep you from committing to spending time in God's Word on a regular basis. Ask Him to help you find some solutions to these issues.

If you *do* spend time with God regularly, tell Him your favorite things about reading the Bible.



When you're all done, pray to God thanking Him that He'd make Himself known to us through the Bible.

DEVOTION 4

Read this quote and meditate on it today:

"The Bible is alive, it speaks to me. It has feet, it runs after me. It has hands, it lays hold on me." -- Martin Luther

Can you say that you think of the Bible in this way or in similar terms? Or is it more of just a "thing" to you, an app on your phone, or a dusty book under your bed?

Pray that God would help you see how meaningful His Word can be in your life. Be open to the Spirit's leading in this area.

DEVOTION 5

"Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long." -- Psalms 119:97

So this week has focused on a more truthful look at how many of us approach the Bible. But, we can confidently end on a positive note. This verse shows us that a true love for God's Word is possible. We can come to see God's Word as life! We can come to look forward to reading the Bible knowing that we will be meeting God Himself in the pages.

You can't change your attitude overnight. But, you can take action. Take a second and think about three things you could do to put yourself on the track to having this type of love for the Bible. Write down your thoughts. Then commit to doing what it takes to put them to action.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Ask God to give you strength to follow through on your plan.