

## Lesson 6: Your Devotional Life

We have talked in the last lesson about the importance of having the habit of daily quiet time set apart for the Lord. Many people call this time their personal devotional time.

*Exodus 33:11*

How is Moses' friendship with God described here? \_\_\_\_\_

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Does God still communicate with His people this way? \_\_\_\_\_

How can we maintain a close personal friendship and relationship with God like Moses had? \_\_\_\_\_

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The purpose of daily devotional time with the Lord is to keep our friendship with God alive and growing.

*Psalm 63:1*

How does David describe his need for a growing friendship with God? \_\_\_\_\_

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Just as we continually need water and liquids, so we need a close relationship and friendship with God. Without this our lives become dry and fruitless. We therefore need to keep an active devotional life (quiet time). The purpose of this time is to keep us, day after day, in union with our Creator, so we never try to live even one day without God.

*Romans 6:11*

Each day how are we to think of ourselves? \_\_\_\_\_

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*Romans 14:8*

What attitude should we have as we live each day? \_\_\_\_\_

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What truth is communicated in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is this attitude and truth so important for each of us? \_\_\_\_\_

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What role does daily devotional time play to help us keep this attitude? \_\_\_\_\_

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*2 Corinthians 5:15*

What directive do we find in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_

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Does daily devotional time help us do this?

In Jeremiah 17:8 we have a description of a person who daily trusts and walks with the Lord:

What is a person like who maintains a daily walk with the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

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What does "hot weather" mean? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What does "no rain" mean? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Does a daily devotional life help us keep this kind of life of faith and relationship with God?

If the Lord has blessed you with children, it is important that you guide them in a growing faith and walk with the Lord.

*Deuteronomy 6:4-6*

To whom has God given the responsibility to teach the children the Word of the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

How often are parents to teach their children about the things of the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

If the Lord has given you children, it is not only important that you have your own devotional life, but also have family devotions. Christian families should set aside some time each day to share the Word of God.

*Proverbs 22:6*

What does this passage teach us? \_\_\_\_\_

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A comment from the author: I have listened to many sermons, I have attended Sunday Worship consistently throughout my life. And as I cycle through my spiritual life I find that the richness of both worship and my attention to sermons is directly related to the level of activity of my devotion/prayer life. When my devotional life is getting attention, my worship is enhanced and my eagerness to hear the Word grows. When my devotional life is waning I find myself not so eager to worship or to listen to God's Word. In many ways I believe one could say that private and family devotions are silent leading indicators of the rise or fall of ones walk with God. It is a silent indicator because no one else is going to know about your private devotions. It is a leading indicator because the relationship begins to break down only after communication stops.

One of the memories I have as a child is sitting around the dinner table, wanting to leave but being unable to do so because of devotions. "Train a child in the way he should go . . ." even though he doesn't like it now. My brother and I complained, but my parents knew what we needed. Today that image is strong with-in me and is not only part of my past but part the present and will continue to be part of my future. ". . . and when he is old he will not turn from them." I know that my boys fight daily prayers and devotion time. They will whine, fuss, complain and not want to answer questions. It doesn't matter. While the material used for devotions will change the principle of having devotions will remain.

If you are looking for a good place to start for family devotions with children you could try Little Visits with God and More Little Visits with God from Concordia Publishing House. You could order a copy through the church office. There are also many fine children's Bible story books with good pictures. Some other ideas for devotion time and variety:

- 1) Gather the members of the family together and have each share their favorite Bible Story; or,
- 2) Sing songs from Sunday School that the kids remember. Have them teach the parents; or,
- 3) On special days of the church year, such as Good Friday, Easter, Christmas, etc., Dad, tell the Bible story in a special and exciting way; or,
- 4) Find bible coloring books. Pick a page and as the picture is being colored, tell the story behind it and share it's meaning in ways they can understand; or,
- 5) Dad, lead prayer and ask for special concerns that the kids have. Don't be afraid to bring up family concerns in your prayers with the children. They are part of the family and live in faith. Take time to explain the issue if necessary; or,
- 6) Taking turns, ask each member of the family to list 5? issues, circumstances or insights for which they are thankful to the Lord.

Don't use all of these at once. Use them once in a while to season the regular prayer and encouragement of devotions. Be flexible with style and procedure. The point is, Praise the Lord, get creative (both privately and in your family), and be free with your expression of forgiveness, adoration, confession, thanksgiving and praise to God. Remember: the freedom you show your children and family in talking about the Lord in honor will free your children and all those within your circle of influence to talk and witness freely concerning all that the Lord has done for you.

There are many good devotion books available for every age group and setting.

This will make a family strong and pleasing to God.

## HOMEWORK

1. Continue to work on developing the habit of personal devotions (quiet time) consisting of prayer and studying God's Word. Give the idea of making a written prayer list a try.
2. If you have children, start making plans on how to better teach them the Word of the Lord at home. You may want to go to the Christian book stores this week to pick up a book you can use for family devotions. Make sure you pray with your children before meals and at bedtime.
3. Write a prayer asking God to help you develop and maintain a good devotional life. Praise Him for the rich blessings that can be ours through setting aside a little time with Him every day, and ask Him to help you grow in prayer and personal study of His Word.