



John 8-12 devotions

How to use these devotions

You can use these devotions wherever and whenever, at home in the morning, on the bus on the way to work or classes, during your lunchbreak, on the ferry on your way home, wherever and whenever.

Start by praying the opening prayer to prepare yourself to hear from God through his word.

Then read the passage and make any notes you want as you read.

Think through the passage using the questions to ponder, and again make notes as you wish. If you'd like to read more, there's an additional reading and question at the end.

Then pray on the back of the passage, praise God, confess sins, bring to him your requests and finish with the closing prayer.

Week 1, Day 1

Opening prayer

Be exalted, Lord, above the heavens, and let your glory cover the earth.
Keep our nation under your care, and guide us in justice and truth.
Let your way be known on earth, and your saving power among all nations.
Send forth your light and truth, that I might know and tell of your saving work.
And hear my prayers this day, for I put my trust in you. Amen.

Read

John 8:12-30, and note any verses that stood out to you.

Ponder

When Jesus' words are questioned in v.13, why does he talk about testimony and witnesses?

How does Jesus depict his relationship with the Father, and what does that mean for us?

Closing prayer

Thank you, Father, for making yourself known to us and showing us the way of salvation through faith in your Son.
Equip me through your word today for every good work,
for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

More

Read John 1:1-9; in what ways does the opening to John's gospel describe Jesus as the light?

Week 1, Day 2

Opening prayer

Our Father in heaven

Hallowed be your name

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

Now and forever. Amen.

Read

John 8:31-41, and mark any verses or ideas that stood out to you.

Ponder

What does the discussion about slavery and freedom reveal about the Jews' position before God, and our natural state before him?

What does it mean, "if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed"?

Closing prayer

Merciful Father

I have sinned, leaving undone what I ought to have done, and doing what I ought not to have done.

Yet I thank you for having mercy on me, freeing me from my slavery to sin according to the promises declared by Jesus.

Grant that I might live a godly and obedient life to the glory of your holy name.

Amen

More

Read Galatians 3:1-9; how do v.6-9 add to our understanding of what it means to be the children of Abraham?

Week 1, Day 3

Opening prayer

Gracious God, as I read your word today deliver me from unbelief and disobedience.

And help me to encourage others so that we might not be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Produce in me the fruit of your Spirit, for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Read

John 8:42-47, and note any striking words or ideas.

Ponder

Why does Jesus say that the Jews are children of the devil?

What is the true sign that a person is a child of God? In what areas in your life do you need to listen to the teaching of Jesus, or learn to love him more?

Closing prayer

Eternal God and Father,

By whose power we are created and by whose love we are redeemed,

Guide and strengthen me by your Spirit, that I may give myself to your service

And live this day in love to one another and to you,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

More

Read 1 John 3:7-10; how does John here describe the activity of the devil and those who follow him?

Want more?

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Something different

If you'd like to try an approach that works with any passage, and that uses journaling to help your study, a well-used practice is known as the *SOAP* method. Here's how it goes:

S: The S stands for **Scripture**- you physically write out the scripture.....you'll be amazed that what God will reveal to you just by taking the time to slow down and actually write out what you are reading!

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A: The A stands for **Application**- this is when God's Word becomes personal. What is God saying to me today? How can I apply what I just read to my own personal life? What changes do I need to make? Is there an action that I need to take?

P: And finally P stands for **Prayer**. Pray God's Word back to Him. If He has revealed something to you during this time in His Word, pray about it. Confess if He has revealed some sin that is in your life.

A quick explanation can be found at: <https://lovegodgreatly.com/how-to-soap/>.

You'll want to try this out with a reading plan in mind, so over the page is a 60-day reading plan that will take you through the New Testament books of Philippians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy and Titus, and the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy.

SOAP method: Sample reading plan

Day 1: Philippians 1:1-111
Day 2: Philippians 1:12-18
Day 3: Philippians 1:19-30
Day 4: Philippians 2:1-11
Day 5: Philippians 2:12-18
Day 6: Philippians 2:19-30
Day 7: Philippians 3:1-11
Day 8: Philippians 3:12-4:1
Day 9: Philippians 4:2-9
Day 10: Philippians 4:10-23

Day 11: Deuteronomy 1:1-25
Day 12: Deuteronomy 1:26-46
Day 13: Deuteronomy 2:1-23
Day 14: Deuteronomy 2:24-3:11
Day 15: Deuteronomy 3:12-29
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Day 17: Deuteronomy 4:15-31
Day 18: Deuteronomy 4:32-49
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Day 23: Deuteronomy 8:1-20
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Day 27: Deuteronomy 12:1-32
Day 28: Deuteronomy 13:1-18
Day 29: Deuteronomy 14:1-29
Day 30: Deuteronomy 15:1-18

Day 31: 1 Timothy 1:1-11
Day 32: 1 Timothy 1:12-20
Day 33: 1 Timothy 2:1-15
Day 34: 1 Timothy 3:1-16
Day 35: 1 Timothy 4:1-16
Day 36: 1 Timothy 5:1-6:2
Day 37: 1 Timothy 6:3-21
Day 38: 2 Timothy 1:1-18
Day 39: 2 Timothy 2:1-13
Day 40: 2 Timothy 2:14-26
Day 41: 2 Timothy 3:1-12
Day 42: 2 Timothy 4:1-22
Day 43: Titus 1
Day 44: Titus 2
Day 45: Titus 3

Day 46: Deuteronomy 16:1-17
Day 47: Deuteronomy 16:18-17:13
Day 48: Deuteronomy 17:14-20
Day 49: Deuteronomy 18:1-13
Day 50: Deuteronomy 18:14-22
Day 51: Deuteronomy 19:1-21
Day 52: Deuteronomy 20:1-20
Day 53: Deuteronomy 26:1-19
Day 54: Deuteronomy 27:1-26
Day 55: Deuteronomy 28:1-14
Day 56: Deuteronomy 28:15-34
Day 57: Deuteronomy 29:1-29
Day 58: Deuteronomy 30:1-20
Day 59: Deuteronomy 31:1-29
Day 60: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Week 2, Day 1

Opening prayer

Thank you Father that your Scripture is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

Open my heart to receive your word, that I might know you better and serve you with all my heart. Amen

Read

John 8:48-53, and note any verses that stood out to you.

Ponder

What is the wild claim that Jesus makes that enrages the Jews? Do you struggle, at a practical level, to also believe Jesus' claim?

The promise to "never see death" is for those who keep Jesus' word (v.51). How can you continue to keep Jesus' word (v.51)?

Closing prayer

Almighty God and loving Father,
I rejoice that you pardon and forgive those who truly believe your gospel.
Grant me true repentance that I might live a godly and righteous life,
And come to everlasting life, never seeing death,
Through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen

More

Read John 17:1-3; how does Jesus describe eternal life in his prayer to the Father?

Week 2, Day 2

Opening prayer

Eternal God and Father,
By whose power we are created and by whose love we are redeemed,
Guide me by your word and strengthen me by your Spirit
To love you and serve you with all my heart. Amen

Read

John 8:54-59, and mark any verses or ideas that stood out to you.

Ponder

In what sense can Jesus say that Abraham saw Jesus' day and was glad? Why did the Jews want to kill Jesus after he said, "before Abraham was born, I am"?

What difference does it make to us that Jesus is eternally God, now in human form?

Closing prayer

Heavenly Father,
Take me and use me to love and serve you and all people,
In the power your Holy Spirit
And in the name of your eternal Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

More

Read Genesis 12:1-3; 22:17, 18; how can Jesus be a fulfilment of the promises made to Abraham?

Week 2, Day 3

Opening prayer

Gracious God,

When I hear your voice in Scripture today, protect me from hardness of heart.
Help me to put away anything that keeps me from persevering in your way,
For the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Read

Exodus 3:1-15, and note any striking words or ideas.

Ponder

What does the name of God—I Am who I Am—tell us about the nature of God (see v.15)?

If God's name "I Am" refers to his personal unchanging faithfulness, how does that affect the way we relate to and think about Jesus?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You made an eternal covenant with us through the blood of your Son,
And brought him back from the dead as our saviour, lord and judge.
Equip me to do your will, and work in me what is pleasing to you,
Through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever. Amen

More

Read Exodus 6:2-8; how is the name of God reflected in his actions among his people?

Week 3, Day 1

Opening prayer

Be exalted, Lord, above the heavens, and let your glory cover the earth.
Keep our nation under your care, and guide us in justice and truth.
Let your way be known on earth, and your saving power among all nations.
Send forth your light and truth, that I might know and tell of your saving work.
And hear my prayers this day, for I put my trust in you. Amen.

Read

John 9:1-12, and note any remarkable verses or words.

Ponder

What can we learn about practical faith from the blind man?

What is the struggle of the people upon seeing the man healed? What is his testimony about Jesus, and what does this tell us about the simplicity of talking to others about Jesus (sharing what he has done)?

Closing Prayer

Thank you, Father, for making yourself known to us and showing us the way of salvation through faith in your Son.
Equip me through your word today for every good work,
for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

More

Read 2 Kings 5:10-14; how is Naaman's response different from that of the blind man? What can we further learn about obedience and faith here?

Week 3, Day 2

Opening Prayer

Our Father in heaven

Hallowed be your name

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

Now and forever. Amen.

Read

John 9:13-34, and mark any special verses or words.

Ponder

What is the difference between the blind man and his parents in their testimony to the religious leaders? Can you think of a time you have responded to questions about your faith like the parents?

What made the blind man so courageous?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,

I thank you for opening my eyes to the wonders of your salvation.

Fill me with your Spirit and give me a love for the Lord Jesus Christ

Send me with confidence in your word to tell the world of your saving acts,

And bring honour to your wonderful name. Amen

More

Read Luke 12:11-12 and 1 Peter 3:14-15. What further principles do we learn about testifying to the work of Jesus?

Week 3, Day 3

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, as I read your word today deliver me from unbelief and disobedience.

And help me to encourage others so that we might not be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Produce in me the fruit of your Spirit, for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Read

John 9:35-41, and note any striking words or ideas?

Ponder

What is the difference between physical and spiritual sight? Why was one not enough to save the man? What does this tell us about experiencing the work of God in our lives vs. making a commitment to who he is?

How does Jesus' comment in verse 41 explain the Pharisees' spiritual blindness?

Closing Prayer

Merciful Father

I have sinned, leaving undone what I ought to have done, and doing what I ought not to have done.

Yet I thank you for having mercy on me, according to the promises declared by Jesus.

Help me to surrender all of my life to you, that I might live a godly and obedient life to the glory of your holy name. Amen

More

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18. How is this verse illustrated in the story of the blind man in John 9?

Week 4, Day 1

Opening Prayer

Thank you Father that your Scripture is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

Open my heart to receive your word, that I might know you better and serve you with all my heart. Amen

Read

John 10:1-10, and note any special verses or phrases.

Ponder

Reflect on Jesus' metaphor of sheep and shepherds. Who are the robbers, the shepherd and the sheep?

The sheep in John 10 wilfully & gladly follow the true shepherd. Would you say that you wilfully, gladly follow the Shepherd, or is there anything in your life that is distracting you from a wholehearted pursuit?

Closing Prayer (from Psalm 23)

You are my shepherd; I shall not want.

You make me lie down in green pastures, and lead me beside still waters.

You restore my soul, and leads me in paths of righteousness
for your name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no
evil,

For you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

More

From Psalm 23 above, outline the details of God the Shepherd's care for us, his sheep.

Week 4, Day 2

Opening Prayer

Eternal God and Father,
By whose power we are created and by whose love we are redeemed,
Guide me by your word and strengthen me by your Spirit
To love you and serve you with all my heart. Amen

Read

John 10:11-21, and mark any verses that stood out to you.

Ponder

While it may sound strange to us, a close relationship exists between the sheep and a shepherd. The sheep grow familiar with the shepherd's voice. Jesus says "I know my sheep and the sheep know me" (v.14). What does it look like for you to have that relationship with Him, the good shepherd?

What do you most take comfort from in this description of the sheep and the shepherd?

Closing Prayer

Merciful Father,
I have strayed from your ways like a lost sheep.
I have followed too much the schemes and desires of my own heart and have broken your holy laws.
I have left undone what I ought to have done,
and I have done what I ought not to have done.
Yet, good Lord, have mercy on me.
Grant that from now on, I may listen to Jesus' voice
And live a godly and obedient life,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

More

Read 1 Peter 5:1-4. What are some key differences between shepherds of God's church and the Chief Shepherd, Jesus?

Week 4, Day 3

Opening Prayer

Gracious God,

When I hear your voice in Scripture today, protect me from hardness of heart.
Help me to put away anything that keeps me from persevering in your way,
For the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Read

John 10:22-42, and mark any noteworthy verses or words.

Ponder

The Pharisees cannot and will not accept Jesus' claims that he is God. What is it about Jesus that gives you confidence to accept his claims?

What do v.28, 29 say about a genuine believer's eternal security? What makes this security so strong?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You made an eternal covenant with us through the death of your Son,
And brought him back from the dead as our saviour and lord.
Equip me to do your will, and work in me what is pleasing to you,
Until his return. Amen

More

What do Philippians 1:6 and 1 Corinthians 1:8-9 add to the idea of eternal security?

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