



draw **near**

Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you
James 4:8

draw near

This booklet is a resource for you to use in your time with the Lord this month. Use it as a guide, but don't be afraid to follow in any direction the Lords you as you study, worship, and pray.

We have listed Sundays as Sabbath days, days to remember and reflect on what God has been doing in your life, what He has been teaching you. These are days to "pray" and then "play." (see CJ's talk series on the Sabbath on our website, www.jmuiv.com) If there's another day that works better for you (maybe you don't have class on Fridays, or Saturdays are normally more free), feel free to switch the Sabbath day with another day.

Each week has an overarching passage that talks about the theme of the week. It is listed under the week's theme in the top corners of each page. There will be some questions that refer back to these passages, and we encourage you to read over them every day to deepen your understanding of word, prayer, fellowship, and witness.

We will be posting periodically on our Draw Near blog, <http://drawnearjmu.blogspot.com/>, with insights, helpful and interesting tidbits, and resources throughout the month, so follow our blog and check it daily!

Any day that is starred (*) is a community day, when we'll be doing something corporately in addition to our individual times with the Lord! Check the blog on those days for more details.

If you have questions at any time, please feel free to email them to jmuivonline@gmail.com, or to ask your Small Group Leaders or any members of InterVarsity's Executive Council.

sunday your heart, part 1

Each Sunday of this study is a Sabbath day. A Sabbath day is a time for remembering and reflecting, looking to see how God is moving in your life. Take some time to do that today as you begin this study.

If you don't already have a journal, you might want to get one to try writing your prayers, processing through passages of scripture, and/or what the Lord is teaching you. Looking back at what you've written can be an awesome reminder of God's faithfulness and can help you see the ways in which He has been working over longer periods of time.

Questions

1. What are you most excited for in this month? What about it scares you the most?
2. How are you hoping to draw near to the Lord during this month?

Prayer

Pray that the Lord would reveal more of Himself to you this month as you draw near to Him. Praise Him for the excitement of this time, and that you would be fully present to Him each day as you spend time with Him. Pray against distractions that might bar you from fully committing your time to the Lord.

monday why draw near? *

So, why are we even doing this? Through this month, we hope that God will be working in the hearts of our chapter, working towards one of our goals: **to develop mature men and women who are continually transformed by the Gospel and responsibly live it out.** What does drawing near to God even mean? A relationship with the Lord is just that - a relationship. Like all relationships, it cannot be one-sided or lacking in communication. Would you ever go for weeks without speaking with your best friend if you had the opportunity to see him or her every day? God is always with us, always speaking to us. It takes us slowing down and spending time with Him for us to actually listen to and hear His voice. Your relationship with your Heavenly Father will develop and deepen as you spend more time with Him. As you do this, He will reveal things to you about Himself, about yourself, about the people with whom you live life, and about your circumstances. He will be continually transforming you! Your desire to spend time with Him will grow, as well. He promises us that if we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us (James 4:8)! This month, we are challenging you to 'meet with him to discern what's going on in your life and the lives of those around you. Let your quiet time with God be the center of your relationship with him and out of that minister love to those in need in your circle of influence. *Think of your time with Him as a chance to spend time with someone you love.*' (Bible.org)

This month is an opportunity for us to be dedicated to spending time with the Lord as individuals, and to keep each other accountable as a group. Although it takes discipline and dedication to spend time with the Lord daily, possibly requiring that you wake up early to meet with Him before class or making time in the afternoon or evening to meet with Him after class, this time also brings an amazing joy! We can look forward to the ways God will be moving in our hearts this month and blessing us as we honor Him by giving Him two of our most prized possessions - our time and attention. He has given us abundantly more than we could ever ask or imagine; we can afford to give Him an hour, a half hour, even fifteen minutes of our time.

If you don't feel like you're hearing God's voice after the first day, don't be discouraged! Sometimes it takes time before we are really able to listen to His voice. Spending time with the Lord isn't all about receiving, even though He does give to us during that time. It's also about being dedicated to Him, giving of ourselves because He has given ALL of Himself to us. It's not always easy, and you might need to give up a few things to make time (that hour you spend watching old seasons of Arrested Development on Netflix, perhaps?), even if they may be good things - because our time with the Lord is better!

In Daniel 6:1-10, we see Daniel, a man who trusted the Lord with all his heart, and who literally risked his life to spend time with God in prayer. Read the passage, looking at how much opposition Daniel was up against, and how committed he was to drawing near to God, even if it meant death.

Questions

1. What opposition did Daniel face in his efforts to be alone with the Lord, to spend time in prayer? What things might make it difficult for you to spend time with God every day?
2. What drove Daniel with passion to be alone with God and seek His face? Was this a one time thing for Daniel?
3. What things in your life is God using to bring you to Himself in a meaningful and radical way?
4. What things in your culture cause you to want to go to God and seek His guidance? Are you letting Him have His way?

Prayer

Pray that you will be dedicated to the Lord this month, that He will provide you with the perseverance and endurance you need to continue spending time with Him daily, no matter what circumstances come up. Pray that He will increase your desire to be with Him, that He would give you passion like Daniel's. Spend some time using your holy imagination - imagine how you might be transformed after spending time with God every day for an entire month! Think of a specific friend who you know is also going through Draw Near this month, and imagine how God might work in that person's life, as well. Praise Him for the work that He will be doing in your heart and the hearts of others in our chapter this month.

* quiet rooms available all 4th floor of taylor 8-10am

tuesday

scripture's purpose in your life *

2 Timothy 3:16-17

This passage is part of the letter to Timothy from his mentor, Paul, who is teaching him the uses of Scripture in his ministry.

Questions

1. What is the source of all scripture? Where did these words come from?
2. How has God intended us to use His word?
3. Looking at this passage and Matthew 4, how does Jesus use Scripture in his conversation with Satan?
4. How can you use Scripture in your mind and heart like Jesus did to grow in your relationship with the Lord?
5. Just as Jesus used scripture to combat Satan's temptations, what are some temptations in your life that you need to combat with scripture?

God has given us this word so that we may be equipped in all situations; that we may always be ready in times of teaching, rebuking, correcting, or training. Knowing His scripture will enable us to do these things in righteousness and for God's glory alone.

Optional passage

Philippians 2:1-11

Prayer

Pray that you will allow God's Word to direct your life, your words, and your actions, that you would live according to His will, not just your own desires. Pray that God teaches you how Scripture is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.

wednesday

meditating on the word *

Joshua 1:8

These are God's instructions to Joshua after he takes charge of leading the Israelites into the Promised Land, following the death of Moses, who had led them out of slavery of Egypt.

Questions

1. According to Joshua 1:8, what comes from meditating on God's word?
2. In Matthew 4:1-11 how did God's word "not departing" from Jesus' mouth give him success against his temptation from Satan?
3. In what struggles or relationships could meditation on Scripture help you?
4. How is meditation different from memorization?
5. What might meditation look like in your life?

Meditating on God's word allows us to know God's word, understand God's word, and apply God's word. It allows us to grasp the full concept as well as the details so that we may be able to live out God's teachings the way He intended. Mediation may look different for different people. For some it may be praying through the passage, for others it may be repetitively reading it, but by meditating on scripture "day and night," our minds and hearts will be aligned with what it says. That is when we can truly live out God's word.

Optional passage

Colossians 1:15-23

Prayer

Spend some time meditating on the scripture you read today. Pray that the Lord would give you the energy to clearly focus on His word and would remove the things that distract you from it.

* quiet room available taylor 404 8-10am

* quiet room available taylor 404 8-10am

thursday

studying the word *

Psalms 119:17-20

Questions

1. What is the Psalmist desiring to see?
2. How did Jesus and Satan interpret Scripture differently as a result of their attitudes and their desires in Matthew 4:1-11?
3. What does your partnership with the Lord look like when studying scripture?

Studying scripture is another essential way to learn about who Christ is and what He is calling us to do. There is a partnership between us and the Lord, we must come with a seeking heart so then in turn God can open our eyes and reveal His truths to us. Studying the Lord's scripture daily will allow us to constantly be gaining clearer vision on the Lord's teaching and how we can apply it to our lives. There are many great resources (Bible commentaries and dictionaries, books, websites, talks, etc.) to be used when studying scripture but the one who should always be sought out first is Christ himself.

Optional passage

John 9:1-41

Prayer

Pray that you would have an undying passion to know Christ more fully through His word. Pray the psalmist's words, that God would open your eyes to behold the wondrous things out of the Word.

friday

putting his words into practice *

James 1:22-25

Questions

1. What does God want us to do with His word?
2. Think back on what you've been reading this week. Have you been taking opportunities to apply these things, to be a "doer;" or have you only "heard" them?
3. Looking back on Matthew 4:1-11, how does Satan attempt to distort God's word for his own gain? How is Jesus a doer, diligently putting God's word into practice for His Father's glory?
4. What are some practical steps you can take to remind yourself of His word?

Putting God's words into practice is such an important step in reading and knowing scripture. By studying and meditating God's word, we then become equipped to live it out. We are to remember what the Lord teaches us so that we can then diligently become more like Christ by putting them into practice. It is always helpful to remind yourself of God's teachings whether it be through writing a word on your hand or talking to someone about what you learned from scripture.

Optional passage

Luke 6:46-49

Prayer

Pray that the Holy Spirit would provide strength and courage to act upon what you read, instead of merely brushing it aside.

* quiet room available taylor 405 8-10am

* quiet room available taylor 302 8-10am

week one: word

matthew 4:1-11

saturday memorizing the word

Psalm 119:16

Questions

1. How should we view God's word? In what attitude should we come to God's word?
2. Why is it important to have scripture memorized?
3. Choose a verse that has really stood out to you so far this week. Challenge yourself to memorize that verse in the coming week.

The Lord's word is something we should take great delight in, for the Lord gave it to us so we could be grounded in Him. Therefore, we should memorize it and hide it in our hearts so we will be ready to share it in times of need. Having God's word in our hearts gives us biblical truths to stand firm on as we walk through every day.

Optional passage

John 14:1-14

Prayer

Pray for perseverance, that you'd continue to study God's word, especially when it seems unreasonable or impossible.

sunday sabbath

Reflect on this past week. How has God challenged your understanding of His word?

week two: prayer

matthew 6:5-13

monday why we pray

Psalm 145:18-19

Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus includes prayer as a command in Matthew 6?
2. According to the psalmist, what happens when we call to God? Do you believe this truth?
3. How does communication strengthen relationships?

Prayer

Thank the Lord today for being a God who wants to be in intimate relationship with His creation and draws near to us. Pray for a greater certainty that God does draw near to you when you pray to Him. Ask him to open the line of communication between the two of you at the beginning of this week so that your relationship may be strengthened through prayer.

week two: prayer

matthew 6:5-13

tuesday how to pray

James 4:3

Colossians 3:1

Questions

1. What does communication with God look like for you? A one-way monologue? A seldom, sporadic conversation? Or a direct and open dialogue of speaking and listening?
2. Looking at Matthew 6, what does Jesus say about our motives of prayer?
3. Evaluate what your usual motives are when you do pray. Are they self-centered or self-seeking?
4. What does the Colossians passage reveal about what our desires should be seeking in prayer--the thoughts of this world or the things of the Lord? In other words, are our prayers focused on our desires for ourselves or on God's desires?
5. How can you get into the right attitude to pray for the things that God wants instead of the the earthly things of this world?

Prayer

Meditate on what you learned about prayer being about good communication in your relationship between you and the Father. Ask God to search your heart and point out any thoughts and motives that are not of Him. Pray for a deeper desire for your prayers about what you want to be aligned with what God wants.

wednesday what to pray for

Philippians 4:6-7

Ephesians 3:20

Questions

1. After relinquishing anxiety and presenting your prayer request to God as explained in Philippians 4, what undeniable promise follows in verse 7?
2. The passage in Philippians tells us to present our prayer to God in every situation. What situations are you not praying about because of personal fear, doubt, or anxiety?
3. Ephesians 3:20 claims that God has the power to do immeasurably more than we can ask, or even imagine and dream about. When we pray boldly for big things, how does that reflect what we think of God? How is it honoring to Him?
4. How would anxiety keep you from praying for the big and bold dreams God has for you? How would His peace cause your prayers to grow bigger and bolder?

Prayer

Praise God for being a Father who wants to show His love for us by demonstrating His power and peace. Pray to submit your anxiety to Him and replace it with prayer that results in His profound peace. Ask Him about the dreams He has given to you. Pray that you may grow your trust in Him, resulting in the growth of bigger and bolder dreams and prayer.

week two: prayer

matthew 6:5-13

thursday praising in prayer *

Revelation 12:10-11

Questions

1. In Revelation 12, we see God's power overcoming the devil (the accuser) by His blood and by our testimony. Testimonies of answered prayers remind us of how God is powerfully working in our lives. How do your testimonies help you bring praise to God?
2. Looking back at Matthew 6, what is the significance of the focus on God's name in the first line of the Lord's Prayer?
3. Matthew 6 displays that praising God in prayer is more than just thanking Him, but acknowledging His excellence for who He is. Why may praise be an integral part of prayer?
4. How can sharing and receiving testimonies (Revelation 12:11) cause you to pray bigger and bolder prayers?

Prayer

Take a minute to write down some elements of His character. Acknowledge how great you think God is just because of who He is. Ask God to remind you of a moment in which He answered a prayer of yours or someone you know. Pray that you can have a conversation with a friend today in which you can share a testimony of a way He's showed up in your life recently.

friday listening in prayer

Mark 4:23

Questions

1. In verse 7 of Matthew 6, how does Jesus discount the misconception that prayer is made up of only the words we speak?
2. Have your prayers had more emphasis on talking to God or listening to Him this week? What does the verse in Mark reveal about our conversational communication with the Lord?
3. The voice and promptings of God were heard by Jesus and hundreds of other characters in the Bible. Why do you think some people find it difficult to hear from God the same way today?
4. What are some things in your life that drown out the voice of God, that can be louder than His words? What would help you tune in to His voice and separate your heart from distractions or doubt?

Prayer

Pray that you may tune into the still small voice of the Spirit. Ask God to trust that He is speaking to you through holy hunches, God ideas, and prayer promptings. Pray that you become aware of His presence so you may begin to hear that inaudible yet unmistakable voice of God.

* poster prayer on the commons today

week two: prayer

matthew 6:5-13

saturday waiting in prayer

Psalms 5:3

Isaiah 40:31

Questions

1. After reading the Psalmist's perspective on prayer, what do you think may be the difference between simply waiting and waiting expectantly?
2. When you feel you have been waiting for God in prayer without any answer, it is difficult to not want to take things into your own hands. Instead of resolving things our own way, what promise does Isaiah tell us that we are given if we remain patient in prayer?
3. In Matthew 6:6, Jesus promises that the Father will reward you when you come to Him in prayer. In today's instant-gratification culture, how much patience and persistence do you think you have to wait for His reward? Although his reward may not always be what you expect, do you believe He will make good on these promises if you pray through until He intervenes? How long are you willing to wait?

Prayer

Remember the promises that God has given you: He does hear your voice. He will reward you. And He will fight for you (Exodus 14:14). Pray that He increase your expectation. Let Him bring you to a place of greater trust in Him instead of trusting in yourself. Pray that He will give you the strength and trust to continue praying over things even when you don't feel like you see change. Be still and watch the Lord give you new strength today.

sunday sabbath

Reflect on this past week. How has your prayer life been changing through what the Lord has been revealing to you?

week three: fellowship

1 corinthians 12:12-31

monday our calling to the body of christ

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Questions

1. How does Paul compare the body of Christ to a human body?
2. Why are different parts needed in the body? Why is each part equally significant?
3. How are you part of the body of Christ? What gifts do you have to offer?
4. In what ways do you see the people around you working together as members in the body of Christ?

Prayer

Pray for God to reveal your role in the body of Christ. Ask what gifts you have to offer and how you can use those gifts in your place of fellowship. Praise Him for the gifts you and the people in your community (your small group) have been given. Ask Him to continually strengthen those gifts.

week three: fellowship

1 corinthians 12:12-31

tuesday fellowship is...

Hebrews 10:24-25

Romans 15:1-7

Questions

1. What does this passage say about the importance of spending time in fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ? (Hebrews)
2. What are we to offer to those we fellowship with? (Hebrews)
3. What does this passage say that fellowship provides in relationships? (Romans)
4. Reread 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31. Do you see fellowship in your life as a place for encouragement and the help of other Christians? Do you help encourage and motivate those you fellowship with?

Prayer

Pray that you find a place for fellowship. If you have a place of fellowship, small group for example, pray that God provides the opportunity to encourage or motivate one of your brothers or sisters in Christ in their faith today. Be specific! Write down the name of one person in your small group in a place where you'll see it (your hand, your agenda, etc.) and pray for them throughout the day as you see their name.

wednesday our need for fellowship

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Matthew 18:20

Questions

1. Reread 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31. According to verses 25-26, how should you respond if one of your friends is struggling or facing difficulty?
2. What is the importance of us having fellowship, according to this passage?
3. Looking at both the Ecclesiastes passage and Matthew 18:20, what are benefits of having fellowship?
4. What does the illustration of the "cord of three strands" represent?
5. Do you have companionship or do you tend to try to go it alone? Where or who can you seek for companionship?

Prayer

Think of one friend in your life whom you would like to grow closer with – pray that God deepens your friendship by providing the opportunity for you to share one thing with that person that you have never shared with them. Pray that you can partner together in faith and prayer and possibly begin an accountability partner relationship with him/her.

week three: fellowship

1 corinthians 12:12-31

thursday fellowship in sharing *

Acts 2:42-47

Questions

1. Reread 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31. In verses 18-20, how does God build a church?
2. What was the result of their devoted fellowship (Acts 2:43)?
3. What are the components of the fellowship of the believers in this passage from Acts?
4. What components of fellowship with others do you see in your community?

Fellowship with others helps us to learn God's word, pray, and mature in our faith. It is our responsibility to help encourage and share with one another.

Prayer

Pray for God's perseverance in your fellowship. Pray that God provides the opportunity to pray together with a specific friend today. Meet with him/her and pray with them.

friday fellowship with the father

1 John 1:5-7

Questions

1. Reread 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31. What do all members of the body of Christ have in common that unify them?
2. How is God described in 1 John 1:5?
3. What do darkness and lightness refer to? What are characteristics of each?
4. Take some time to honestly assess the way you spend time with the Lord. What characterizes your fellowship with God? Are you being truthful with Him, or do you present a front to God? What are some ways in which you can be more honest in your fellowship with God?
5. Does your time with God affect the rest of your daily life, or do you separate the two?

Prayer

Pray for God to reveal aspects that you can be more honest in your fellowship with God. Confess to God the areas of your life that you have tried to keep in the darkness and ask God to redeem those areas.

* break bread @ hillside field 7-9pm
come when you can

week three: fellowship

1 corinthians 12:12-31

saturday fellowship in the holy spirit

John 14:26-27
Romans 8: 26

Jesus is telling His disciples that He is about to be crucified, resurrected, and go to the Father, and tells them that the Holy Spirit will be with them when He leaves.

Questions

1. According to Jesus in the passage in John, what does the Holy Spirit do for us?
2. While the Holy Spirit is our teacher and equipper, we can also recognize that He is our friend and not just someone with whom we have a one-sided relationship, only focused on how He can serve us. How does this lead to more depth in our fellowship with Him?
3. How does the Holy Spirit helping us in our weakness reveal His desire to be our friend and fellowship with us?
4. What do you feel when you read about how the Spirit intercedes for you when you don't know what to pray for?
5. Do you seek guidance from the Holy Spirit in your prayer? How could you seek the Holy Spirit more?

Prayer

Pray that you will be able to discern how the Holy Spirit is leading you. Talk to the Spirit about how you can partner with Him and gain a deeper understanding of who He is. Pray that your heart and mind be sensitive to presence of the Holy Spirit as He moves in your life, and thank Him for the ways that He has already been transforming you.

sunday sabbath

Reflect on this past week. How do you see your fellowship with other believers changing? How do you see your fellowship with the Lord growing?

week four: witness

romans 10:10-15

monday why we witness

Romans 10: 10-15
Matthew 28: 19-20
Luke 15:16

Being a witness for Christ is described as beautiful before the Lord. Sharing the gift of salvation is the greatest act of love we can show someone. Jesus was very clear about proclaiming the truth to others. He understood the magnitude of salvation.

Questions

1. Look at Romans 10:13-15; consider this cycle of witnessing and how you have followed it in your life.
2. How does Matthew 28:19-20 explain how to have the “beautiful feet” described in Romans 10:15?
3. In Matthew 28:19-20 and Luke 15:16, Jesus was exceptionally clear about what He wanted believers to do. How have you obeyed or not obeyed Jesus’ command?
4. Take some time to consider what salvation means to you and how it has changed your eternity. Reflect on how you came to hear the Good News.

Prayer

Pray for a renewed understanding and desire to witness to others. Look at the names you wrote down for question 4, pray for “beautiful feet,” that you would boldly share the Gospel with them.

tuesday remembrance of the truth

Ephesians 2:8-10
Galatians 5: 13-14

In order to witness, we need to remember the truth about the Gospel and what saved us. We witness because we remember what God did for us. Witnessing is done out of love for others and our love for God.

Questions

1. What does Ephesians 2:8-9 and Romans 10:9-11 tell you about what saves us?
2. What does Galatians 5:13-14 say to use our freedom to do?
3. How can you “love your neighbor as yourself” by sharing your faith?
4. In what ways do you need to use your freedom to serve Christ instead of yourself?
5. Who is someone that you love that you want to share your faith with? Write down that person’s name today and pray for boldness and opportunities to share your faith!

Prayer

Pray that you would be reminded and humbled by the grace God has given you. Pray that God gives you an understanding that witnessing is an act of love. Pray for the person whose name you wrote down, continue to pray for this person throughout the week.

wednesday understanding your calling

2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Colossians 4:5-6
1 Peter 3:15

We are Christ's ambassadors, and we need to represent him to the best of our ability! Every opportunity can be used as a witness to your faith and changed life because of Christ. We must be aware of our actions and be prepared to share our faith at all times!

Questions

1. What are the responsibilities of an ambassador? How do you represent Christ like an ambassador represents a country?
2. If you are an ambassador of Christ, would people in your life notice something different about you that reflects Him? What things in your life do you need to change in order to be a better ambassador of Christ?
3. How do Colossians 4:5-6 and 1 Peter 3:15 show us how to be representatives for the Lord by relating to one another rightly?
4. How does relating to one another rightly further your witness for Christ?

Prayer

Pray that God would create instances where you could interact with others as an ambassador of Christ. Pray that God shows you how to act rightly towards others as you witness and learn to share the hope you have in Christ.

thursday unashamed *

Psalms 107:2
2 Timothy 1:7-12
Romans 1: 16-17

We are to be unashamed for Christ because He unashamedly died for us. It is vital to see the Gospel as life changing. So great that you can't help but share and you are not ashamed to tell anyone about the amazing love God displayed!

Questions

1. Psalm 107:2 challenges you to speak out, to tell others about how you have been redeemed. What does Paul say in 2 Timothy 1: 7 about what the Spirit God makes believers?
2. Re-read 2 Timothy 1:7. If you are a believer in Christ, how is the Spirit God gave you described? Do you believe that you have that power within you to be bold for the Gospel? How have you seen the Spirit work in you?
3. Paul was not ashamed (2 Timothy 1:8) about the testimony of the Lord and was in jail while writing 2 Timothy because he was a witness for Jesus. How willing are you to suffer in order to be a bold witness for Christ?
4. Ponder the truth that Jesus was unashamed to die for you. Reflect on how your life has been changed by the Gospel. In light of that, how will you be unashamed for Him because of his loving sacrifice?

Prayer

Pray for an unashamed heart for the Gospel.. Ask the Lord to provide situations and people in your life where you can live unashamed for Christ like He did for you.

* post-it witness

friday it is a privilege

Romans 1:5
Matthew 4:18-20

Questions

1. If you are a believer in Christ, how do you see your relationship with Christ as a privilege in your life as Paul says in Romans 1:5.
2. Considering Matthew 4:18-20, how can we, like the disciples, see Christ's call a privilege, a higher calling? Are there things in your life you need to be willing to give up in order to follow Jesus and be His witness?
3. Imagine giving your friend the most amazing gift ever. Think how amazing it would be to see the joy it would bring them. Wouldn't that be a great privilege to give that gift? Now think how salvation is the best gift you could EVER give someone. What holds you back from giving this gift?

Being a believer in Christ and witnessing about your faith is a privilege! Just as Jesus called His disciples, He still calls us to make disciples (Great Commission).

Prayer

Take a minute to think about how Christ gives us the privilege of being his witnesses, despite our faults and imperfections. He is the perfect witness, yet He entrusts us with His message. Thank God for giving you the privilege of being His witness. Pray that you would take joy in carrying out His calling.

saturday always be prepared

1 Peter 3:15

Questions

1. Peter starts this verse by asking the church in Asia Minor to revere Christ in their hearts as Lord, to establish Him as the Sovereign God. How does establishing Christ as Sovereign give us confidence in witnessing to our non-believing friends?
2. In what ways has God equipped you to be prepared to share His Gospel? What resources and people has he placed in your life to prepare you?
3. In what ways can you better take advantage of the resources God has given you to be better prepared?
4. What does Peter mean by sharing our Hope with gentleness and respect? How does our attitude when we witness to our non-believing friends influence their response?

While we need to do all we can to be better prepared to share the Gospel, we have to understand that it is the Lord who works in hearts, not us. God bears the burden of His children's salvation. Matthew 10:19-20 tells us we cannot let the fear of "not knowing enough" about the Gospel keep us from sharing it, because the Holy Spirit can speak through any of Christ's followers.

If you're unsure of what to say when you're sharing the Gospel, it can help to have a framework. The Gospel has never-ending depth, but the beauty of it is that we can share God's story in such clear ways. One really helpful framework is the Four-Part Gospel: Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Renewal. This is an excellent tool to tell the way that God has worked in your life (your testimony) in the context of the bigger story of the Gospel of God's kingdom.

Prayer

Pray for opportunities to share the Gospel with your non-believing friends. Think back to the person whose name you wrote down on Tuesday, and pray for him or her specifically, that when the Lord gives you an opportunity, you would be unashamed in speaking His Truth. Pray that God would give you gentleness and respect for that person when you do get to share with him/her.

finishing well

daniel 6:1-10

sunday your heart, part 2

Take time to reflect and pray about this past month.

Questions

1. What made your daily time with the Lord difficult? What were some obstacles?
2. Which topics were especially convicting and challenging?
3. Reread Daniel 6:1-10. Do you feel like you've grown in your dedication and desire in spending time with the Lord?
4. Look over what you've written this past month. Notice how the Lord has been revealing things to you throughout. Are there any big themes you can see? What has the Lord been teaching you?

monday carry it on

Hebrews 12:1-3

Congratulations! You made it to Day 30 of Draw Near! Although you've reached the end of these past 30 days, don't let that keep you from continuing to spend time with the Father daily. Here's a method to help you understand what God is telling you through Scripture each day.

Look at the passage and ask yourself:

- What does the passage say?
- What does the passage mean?
- What does the passage mean to me?
- Pray for God to guide you to act on the passage.

Try this method with Hebrews 12:1-3

Prayer

Pray that the Lord will continue to increase your desire to spend time with Him. Pray that He will give you strength to spend time with Him each day, regardless of what is going on around you, and that He will continually reveal more of Himself to you. Pray to grow deeper in your relationship with Him.

Did something this month really stick out to you that you'd like to pursue further? Would you just like to continue having quiet times in general but don't know how to start? Check out our blog for some awesome resources and suggestions to carry you into the summer.

Continue to draw near to God, and He will continue to draw near to you!