



DEVOTIONAL READING BLOG GUIDE

METHOD

We use the *REAP* Method when writing and communicating the daily passage. See how each section should be formatted below.

Read

As you prepare to read, first take a moment and prepare your heart and focus your mind with a simple prayer. "Lord, lead me in Your truth and teach me . . ." Psalm 25:5a Write out word for word the Key Verse of the passage in which God spoke to you (include the scripture reference)

Examine

What is the context, who is talking, who are they talking to, what issue is being address, etc.? Ask the basic questions of who, what, where, when, why and how. Then finally, what did I learn? In a few sentences write out the Key Thought of the passage or how God spoke to you the most.

Apply

How does this apply to my life? How do I need to live? In one or two sentences write out a Key Application: What you will do differently in your life because of the passage? Write out how you are going to take action with what God has shown you.

Pray

You should view your time in the Word as a conversation, not a monologue. God speaks to you through His Word, but as in any conversation, deeper understanding and levels of communication occur in the context of a back and forth dialogue. Write in a few sentences a prayer to God. Pray that during the day through the power of the Holy Spirit you will apply these principles from God's Word to your life. HAVE FUN!!!

FAQs

- **How long should my blog be?** We encourage concise devotional blogs, with a maximum length of 300-350 words. This helps to ensure that the message reaches the broadest audience possible.
- **How do I find background context regarding my passage?** When seeking background context on your passage, it is helpful to consider various resources. One approach recommended by Pastor Orr is to look for parallel translations using platforms

like Bible Hub. These parallel translations can bring the scriptures to life and provide different perspectives. Additionally, exploring commentaries such as Wiersbe, Bible Knowledge, and New American can offer valuable insights into the historical, cultural, and theological context of the passage.

- **What commentaries should I use?** Pastor Orr recommends several commentaries that he personally uses, including Wiersbe, Bible Knowledge, and New American. These commentaries can provide valuable insights and interpretations of the biblical text, helping you to gain a deeper understanding of your passage.
- **What translation of the Bible should I use?** We use the New Living Translation as the bible of reference for our church.
- **When is my devotional blog due?** To ensure timely publication, devotional blogs should be submitted with enough time for editing and review. The goal is to have the blogs submitted by Thursday prior to the publication week.

SAMPLE BLOGS

#1

Passage: Numbers 18 - 19

READ - "Be sure to give to the LORD the best portions of the gifts given to you." – Numbers 18:29 NLT

EXAMINE - The LORD restated the duties of the Priests in handling the altar and its sacred articles and the duties of the Levites in assisting the Priests (Numbers 18:1-7). For their service to the sanctuary, the Priests and Levites were supported from the tithes and offerings received of all Israelites (Numbers 18:8-32). The LORD gave Moses instructions for purifying water made from the ashes of a red heifer and the usage of this water for those who became defiled because they came in touch with a dead body (Numbers 19).

APPLY - No one was exempt from bringing offerings to the LORD. Even the Priests and Levites had to give God a tithe from the tithes they received from the people (Numbers 18:26). Everyone was commanded to give their best gift to the LORD (Numbers 18:29). What is your best? How much is your best? Since God has given us His best, take the time today to examine your time, testimony, talent, and treasures. Resolve to give God the best and nothing less!

PRAY - Father God, as we grow in our giving and in our godliness, help us to do our best, to give our best and to be our best at all times. In Jesus' Name, Amen!

#2

Passage: John 16

READ - "I have told you these things so that you won't abandon your faith." John 16:1

EXAMINE - Jesus came into the world to pay the price of our sins by giving His life on the cross. Jesus forewarned His disciples of coming persecution (John 16:2-4). To help them go through the persecution, Jesus promised His disciples power through the Holy Spirit (John 16:7-15). Although the disciples were sad now, their sadness would turn into praise after His resurrection (John 16:19-21). The disciples would also enjoy their prayers answered by God (John 16:22-24). Finally, Jesus promised them peace even in the midst of their trials and sorrows (John 16:33).

APPLY - We all have so many unanswered questions, unbearable burdens, and unexplainable pain. Life is tough. We must deal with the loss of loved ones, the hatred of enemies, and even the internal struggles of doubt and disappointments. Sometimes it storms in our lives and the howling winds keep blowing. Life is rough. To help us navigate these troubled times, Jesus Christ has given us His Holy Spirit. You're not alone. You do have help. The Holy Spirit is waiting to lead you and guide you. Just let Him have His way!

PRAY - Father God, fill me today with the power of the Holy Spirit so that I may walk in victory despite everything that's going on in my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen!