



75th Anniversary Weekly Devotionals

Week 8 (Nov 6 – Nov 12)

Each week, we will provide 5 days of Bible reading to guide you as you pray and meditate on the Bible passages and topics we're studying together as a church family. You can use the S.O.A.P. method (S.O.A.P. journals available at the Info Center) or any method you choose.

Giving God Your Best

Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love God. As Christ-followers, we should always be growing in our love for God. Take time this week to reflect and prayerfully ask yourself, "Am I loving God above all things? Am I giving him my best?"

DAY ONE: Read Mark 12:28-34. Read these familiar words again, slowly. Ask yourself, "Am I loving God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength?" Pray and ask God to show you areas where you need to grow in your love for him. Write out a prayer that expresses your love for God.

DAY TWO: Read John 14:15-21. What does Jesus say is the evidence we love God, both in 14:15 and 14:21? In 14:21, what does Jesus say will happen to those who show they love God by their obedience to his commands? Open yourself to the Holy Spirit's conviction of sin and confess wherever he points out areas of disobedience in your life. Remind yourself of the truth of 1 John 1:9, where God promises that he always forgives us when we confess our sin. Give him thanks for his grace.

DAY THREE: Read Psalm 63, focusing on 63:1-5. Then, read Psalm 73:25-26. What do you think is the central message of these verses? In both psalms, we see the psalmists expressing love for God in terms of desiring him and valuing him above all things. Is God's love truly "better than life" for you? Does earth have some things you desire "besides [God]"? On Sunday, Pastor Mike said, "The essence of sin is preferring other people or other things above God, desiring them more than you desire God. The essence of loving God is desiring God more than you desire anyone or anything else." Talk with God about the insights you gain as you meditate on these verses.

DAY FOUR: Read Psalm 36:7-9. Thank God for his priceless, unfailing love. Write down some ways you have feasted on his abundance and his river of delights. Read 36:7-9 again and pray these verses to God, rejoicing in God's goodness to you.

DAY FIVE: Read Mark 12:28-34 again. Focus on 12:31, where Jesus says that loving our neighbor is the second greatest commandment. Read 1 John 3:16-20. In these verses, the Apostle John connects loving God and loving neighbor. What is the Holy Spirit telling you right now? Consider memorizing 1 John 3:18. Pray for opportunities to put into practice what you've learned this week.