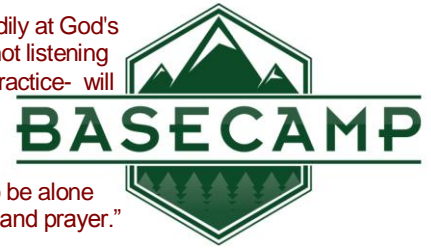


DEVOTIONALS

INTRO

Verse: JAMES 1:25 “The one who looks steadily at God's perfect law .. and makes that law his HABIT not listening and then forgetting, but actively putting it into practice- will be happy in all that he does.



DEF: “A quiet time is a daily time I set aside to be alone with God to get to know Him through the Bible and prayer.”

SETTING ASIDE TIME TO GET TO KNOW GOD

I. WHY DO I NEED TO HAVE A DAILY QUIET TIME / DEVOTIONAL?

STORY: Clarence Ford (Quiet time-be quiet!)

EX: Steve Bush's TV Evangelist friend – stopped having QTs –“Arrived” NO!

1. We were **CREATED** to have fellowship with God; He desires it.

Genesis 1:27, 2:7, 3:8 So God created man in his own image...

Revelation 3:20 Look! I've been standing at the door and constantly knocking. If anyone ... opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him and he with me.

EX: Me w/ my kids – Just want to enjoy relationship!

2. Jesus **DIED** to make a relationship with God possible.

1 Corinthians 1:9 God... has invited you into this wonderful friendship with his Son, Christ our Lord.

3. Personal time alone with God was Jesus' **HABIT**.

Mark 1:35; Luke 22:39; Luke 5:16 - Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed

EX: Jesus – This was a HABIT in his life... how much more do we need it!?

4. Every person who has been effective in **LIVING** for God developed this habit.

(See example of Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel, Paul, etc...)

EX: Luther, CT Stud, Finney, Billy Graham, etc.

QT: Luther; “I have so much to do today that I must spend the first 4 hours in prayer!”

5. You cannot be a **MATURE** Christian without it!

Matthew 4:4 Man cannot live on bread alone, but on every word that God speaks.

EX: Not just “surrounded” by bread – but digesting bread! (Word)! ;-)

Job 23:12 ... I have treasured the word of His mouth more than my necessary food.

Psalms 119:9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By keeping to you Word.

TRANS: What is the **benefit** of QT's?

II. WHAT IS THE **PURPOSE** OF MY QUIET TIME?

1. To Give **GLORY** to God.

Psalms 29:2 Give to the Lord the glory due his name. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.

2 Chronicles 31:21 Hezekiah was successful, because everything he did ... he did in **a spirit of complete devotion** to his God.

- God deserves our devotion! (**Revelation 4:11**)

- God **doesn't** just want us to be **BUSY!**

- God desires our devotion! (**John 4:23**)

2. To Get **DIRECTION** from God.

Psalms 25.4 Show me the path where I should go, O Lord; point out the right road for me to walk. Lead me...

EX: Jesus – Spent all night praying (talking) to God BEFORE picked disciples

3. To Gain **DELIGHT** in God.

Psalms 37.4 Delight yourself in the Lord; and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalms 16:11 ... God's presence fills me with joy and brings me pleasure.

TIP: The better I get to know Christ, the more **I LOVE HIM.**

GOAL: Love Jesus MORE!

III. HOW DO I GET STARTED?

1. Select a specific TIME.

- The best time to have a quiet time is when I am: **AT MY BEST** – consider **mornings**.
Psalms 5:3 In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.
REASONS: See examples: Jacob, Moses, David, Jesus; **Logical**-begin day; **Show** priority: **FIRST** thing-more rested...
QT: Hudson Taylor; “The best time to tune your instrument is before you use it.”
- Whatever time you set, be **CONSISTENT**.

2. Gather the RESOURCES you'll need.

- A **BIBLE** - with readable print.
- A **NOTEBOOK** - to write down what the Lord speaks to you about. (Pen, colored pencils, , etc)
- A **SONG** book - if you want to sing.

3. Follow a simple PLAN. (One Year Bible, S.O.A.P. Method, etc.) **EX:** Devotionals, Verse cards, etc

4. Choose a special PLACE. **EX:** Closet, room, restaurant, Park, etc.
Luke 22:39 Jesus left the city and went, as he usually did, to the Mount of Olives ... to pray.

TIP: The important factor: Get **ALONE**. **EX:** Under bush – found by a dog & farmer!
Mark 1:35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went to a solitary place, where he prayed.

THE “S.O.A.P. METHOD” STEPS FOR A 25 MINUTE DEVOTIONAL

I. PRAY TO GOD (2 minutes) – Use a list you have prepared.

II. READ YOUR BIBLE (10 minutes) – Have a plan.

III. JOURNAL YOUR THOUGHTS (10 minutes) – Have a notebook or journal.

1. **S = Scripture:** Write down a meaningful scripture from your reading.
2. **O = Observation:** Write 1-2 paragraphs “Observation” about this passage.
3. **A = Application:** Write a 1-2 paragraphs of personal “Application” about this passage.
4. **P = Prayer:** Write a 1-2 line prayer related to this passage.

IV. SHARE or PRAY (3 minutes) – About the thoughts God gave you.

NOTES (See Example):

1. Use **ONE PAGE** in your journal — labeling each part of the entry with either an “S”, “O”, “A”, or “P” in the left margin.
2. **DATE** and **TITLE** at the top of the page (Short and sweet)
3. Idea: Read **PROVERBS** of the day (i.e. on Sept 20, read Proverbs 20).