

Young Prayer Warriors

Theme: Prayer

Subject: Daily Devotions

Scripture: James 4:14

Give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine (KJV).

Every Day?

Just hearing the words daily devotions may send a shudder down your spine. What a drag. A real turn off! you may be thinking. But you're not stupid. You know you ought to spend time every day reading God's Word and praying, but most of the time you just don't do it. You know you're a better Christian when you do spend time with your Bible and when you talk to the Lord about your life and plans and problems. But let's face it, D.D.'s aren't exactly the cool thing among teens today.

Have you tried to devote lately? If you're like most Christians your age, you haven't exactly lined up outside the prayer closet. Still, chances are you've tried on a quiet time for size once or twice but unless you're out of the ordinary, you haven't been all that thrilled with how it fits.

Part of the problem is that we don't stick with the program long enough to develop a habit of having devotions on a daily basis. You need to establish a routine. Brushing your teeth is a good habit. Maybe you need to see D.D.'s in the same light.

Set a specific time. Make an appointment with God and keep it. If you don't have time for personal devotions before school, find another time, but guard that time with a vengeance. One way to lower the failure rate is to have devotions like your life depended on them. The truth is: your spiritual life does.

In an important sense, the D.D. practices of your teen years will spell the difference between success and failure in your adult life. If you think D.D.'s are a tiny time slot at the beginning of your day, you have lots of company. But, as you have already learned, they better serve your every waking minute than a few early minutes.

It is the focus of this Youth Prayer Warriors program to help get you involved in prayer and Bible study for the rest of your life. This is a tall order. But, your future success as a Christian depends on it.

Biblical meditation is sometimes confused for other more popular meditation methods.

Maybe you have no recognition problem now, but you will probably be introduced to a false meditation system before your formal education is ended. Biblical meditation is just what it implies: reading a passage of God's Word; memorizing and/or thinking about it; asking God to show you how that particular passage applies to you; then making it a part of your life. Ask the following questions about every passage you read:

1. What does it say?
2. What does it mean?
3. What does it mean to me?
4. How can I make it meaningful to others?

D.D.'s also include different kinds of prayer: confession, petition, thanksgiving, praise, intercession, etc. The Youth Prayer Warrior program has provided a natural launching pad for you. Use the daily prayer starters and Scripture passages in the Time Out and Word Up sections as a place to start an exciting adventure with God. Of course, it may not seem so exciting at first. But don't give up. Stick with it long enough for it to become a habit you can't do without.

Closer Look

Read 1 Timothy 4:12-16. To whom is this passage addressed? What do you know about him from reading these few verses? Why is this an important word for you?

Have you tried in the past to develop a system of daily devotions? What happened? Are you ready to try again?

Time Out

Word Up

Monday:	O God, I love to meditate on Your Word.	Psalm 1
Tuesday:	I will hide Your Word in my heart, O God, so that I will not sin against You.	Psalm 119:11
Wednesday:	Lord, I believe Your Word will never cease to exist.	Matthew 24:35
Thursday:	Your Word, Lord Jesus, is more important than food.	Luke 4:4
Friday:	I acknowledge that You are the Living Word of God.	John 1:1-4
Saturday:	Speak to me today, Lord Jesus, through Your written Word.	John 5:39

Time To

Familiarize yourself with the Word of God.

1. What is the name of the first book of the Bible? _____
2. What is the name of the last book of the Old Testament? _____
3. What book in the Old Testament is primarily a book of songs? _____
4. How many books are there in the Old Testament? _____
5. Name the four Gospels. _____
6. Who wrote the book of Revelation? _____
7. In most Bibles the words of Jesus are written in what color? _____
8. What does the word Epistle mean? _____
9. Name three Epistles. _____
10. What is the last book in the entire Bible? _____ What is the meaning of this word? _____.

<http://yq.iphc.org/twin.html>