Devo to do on your own

From Wednesday, September 1, 2021

Remember, September is a month when we are encouraging everyone to choose one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) and read it at   
least once during the month. Think about when you can do this or how you will do this.

**>>> START**

You wake up in the morning, smack the reset button on your alarm clock, sleep a little longer, slink into the shower, throw on some clothes, grab your backpack, get a ride to school, meet up with some friends, sit through classes, start your homework, attend a sports event or work at your job, text with your friends, fall into bed, wake up the next morning, and start the process all over again. Does this sound familiar?

Life easily falls into a predictable schedule. When life becomes routine, you may find it difficult to add new practices into your schedule. Finding time for something else may appear unrealistic – especially if you’re not sure it will be fun. I mean, if you were told to make space in your schedule for God, you might think it’s an add request and a troublesome task. One more thing to do. And doing something with someone you can’t see – well, that’s just weird.

At church you have probably heard messages about having daily devotions with God, and you may even feel guilty because you’re not consistent at it. That feeling is very common. There are many Christians who feel the same. But at the same time, as soon as a friend says, “Let’s go to the movie,” most people typically reply something like, “Sure! When?” You see, when people see something as important, they usually find time for it. And unfortunately, for many people, sports, movies, television, and eating always seem like more fun than spending time with God.

One of the goals of growing deeper in Christ is to learn to set aside time to be with God, to hang out with him. You don’t have to drive anywhere to be with God. You don’t have to wait for a certain time of the day. You can spend time with Him wherever you are and whatever time of the day it is. And the cool thing is, you’ve made time to be with Him right now because you’re working through this devo. Great job. Now, let’s see what God has in store for us today.

Questions: What is one of your favorite things to do with a good friend?

What do you typically do when you’re just hanging out together?

**>>> READ**

Luke 10:38-42

*As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said.  But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”*

*“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things,  but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”*

**>>> THINK**

Why wasn’t Martha commended for being a good servant? I mean, she was working hard to prepare the house and a meal for Jesus and his two disciples.

What compelled Mary to sit and listen to Jesus?

What was Martha’s biggest problem, according to Jesus? (Do you struggle with these issues yourself?)

If you read the text carefully, it seems like Mary started off doing housework with Martha (“Don’t you care that my sister has left me…”). How was Mary able to change her focus?

**>>> LIVE**

Spend a moment thinking about your relationship with God. Do you spend time with Him? (another way to ask this: Do you spend time praying to Him at all during any given day? Do you open your Bible and read it anytime other than at church? There are obviously more ways to spend time with God than this (worship, service, meditating on His Word, memorizing Bible verses, going through a Bible study, reading the verse of the day in the Bible app, journaling, focused prayer time, etc.) Set a goal of when you will next spend time with God and what you want to do. (If you need help, find a Bible reading plan on the Bible app.)

**>>> WRAP-UP**

Go back to the text in Luke 10:38-42. Martha was working. Mary was spending time with Jesus. What is easier for you – doing ministry or spending personal time with God?

Why do you think this is easier for you?

Mary was willing to change her plans to make the most of the opportunity in her situation. Are you so busy rushing from activity to activity that you have difficulty asking opportunities when they arise? If so how might you change that?

Spend a moment praying as you wrap-up this devotional time. We’re proud of you for taking some time to spend with God. Have a great week and we’ll see you soon!

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Coming Up:

Sunday, September 5 –

Split MS/HS Sunday morning classes.. 9:40 in The Refinery.

Intersection – where life and faith intersect - 7:00pm in The Refinery or outside

Wednesday, September 8 –

Midweek at 7:00pm.

Family Retreat – September 10-12

Pics from Cardboard Boat Race, Fireworksapalooza, and the Back to School Family   
Fellowship and Parade can be found online at amyouth.smugmug.com