

SUMMER DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION GUIDE

SCRIPTURE: REAP

When we read Scripture our goal is to understand what God has revealed so that we can shape our lives around who he is and how he has interacted with his creation. There are many ways Christians have approached the study of Scripture. One widely used simple method is called REAP. The REAP method helps us first understand and then apply the Bible to our lives. This method can be used on any portion of Scripture and is helpful whether you have 5 minutes or 5 hours to engage with Scripture.

PRACTICE

Spend a portion of your personal, undistracted time with God praying and engaging with Scripture using the REAP tool below. If you're unsure what to read, you may want to choose a passage from a Gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John) or from a letter like Colossians or Galatians.

READ

Read the passage. If you have time, you might read it a few times, silently and out loud, with a pen in hand. Note or underline thoughts that might be significant. Answer the question, "What do I see?" As you're reading, think through these questions:

- What is happening in this passage? What things are emphasized, repeated, related?
- What do I see about God? How is God presented in this passage?
- What do I see about people? What are the people doing?

EXAMINE

Examine the passage. At this point, answer some questions about the meaning of the text. Take time to reflect. Ask yourself these questions, and write down your thoughts:

- What do I learn about God's character?
- What do I like? Is there anything that I don't like? Is there anything I don't understand?
- What seems most significant?
- What wrong beliefs about God and myself do I have?
- How do I think the author wants his audience to respond?

APPLY

Apply the passage to your own life. Answer the question, "No matter where I am spiritually, what would it look like for me to live out what I just read?" Some questions to consider might include:

- How do I need to repent or change?
- What truths do I need to believe? What false beliefs must I turn from?
- What can I do—empowered by the Holy Spirit—to live out this passage?

PRAY

Pray through the passage and how you think God is using it in your life, asking God to change your heart and to change your life. Ask that God would be glorified as you seek to apply the passage this week. Ask God to make his love and his grace real to you as you seek to follow his Word.

For previous week's guides, go to redemptionokc.com/summerdevotions.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

PSALM 130 | THE LORD OUR HOPE

LEARNING THE WORD

1. Each week this summer, our Reflection Guide will include a spiritual practice for you to engage in during your personal devotional time. Begin by reading page one of this Reflection Guide. After reading, consider the following questions: Have you ever used the REAP method or something similar while reading Scripture? What was helpful about it?
2. Read Psalm 130 aloud. What phrases of words most jump out at you? What word(s) or ideas are repeated?
3. What are the “depths” that the Psalmist mentions in verse 1? Have you ever found yourself in such a place?
4. Do verses 3-4 sound odd to you? Why should God be feared because of his forgiveness? How does this contradict how we normally think about the fear of the Lord?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 and Romans 5:3-5. How does Paul’s teaching reinforce and expand on the teaching of Psalm 130?

LIVING THE WORD

6. What are you tempted to hope in other than God? What is it about us that tries to find hope in other places?
7. How are waiting and hope connected? What are some ways that we can wait on the Lord?
8. In what ways does this passage reflect the ultimate hope of the Gospel?

Practice this week: Pick a time in your day to spend personal, undistracted time with God praying and engaging with Scripture. As you read the Bible, use the REAP method on the front page of this guide to help you as you seek to understand the passage and apply it to your life.