



LGC Daily Devotion Guide 2010

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Foreword

Purpose:

As we embark on a year of learning as a church to be “Fully Devoted Disciples of Christ” (FDDC), one of the most fundamental “disciplines” that will mold us into FDDC is the discipline of daily devotion, practiced by saints in the Old Testaments and New Testaments, and even our Lord Himself when he spent time on earth physically. Some of us have had the privilege of practicing this discipline for decades, but many among us did not have the privilege of being taught, encouraged and facilitated to do so. Therefore, it is our desire that through this Guide, the whole church may be spurred on to cultivating this discipline, so that we may grow closer to knowing God, loving God and being more like Him.

Also, by using the same materials, it is our desire that

- (1) the whole church may grow in same rhythm, and
- (2) we will also hold one another accountable through time (say, 15-30 minutes) cut out during each Fellowship time to share what God has touched us through our daily devotion.

Prayer Format

We have chosen the proven A.C.T.S. approach so that by starting with

- (1) Adoration: the use of an Invocation Prayer (adopted sometime from prayers of ancient saints), and the simply reflection on God’s character based on a short (portion of) Psalm, we may approach God without too self-focused an agenda, with the confidence that the Lord is waiting to meet with us.
- (2) Confession: although as born-again children of God, sins cannot break our eternal relationship with God, but sins can hamper our fellowship with Him. So, it is important that we pause and ask the Holy Spirit to show us our sins, especially during a time of peacelessness which certainly calls us to examine ourselves before Him. Sometimes, if we are so

burdened with sins that we may do Confession even before Adoration. I would rather let the Holy Spirit guide you in this respect everyday. But under normal circumstances, beginning with adoration does help our entire devotion to be more God-centered.

- (3) Thanksgiving: In the fast pace of life, we often forget to give thanks to God as taught in the Scriptures, therefore it is our duty to give thanks everyday. Do keep a journal or notebook and record not only thoughts that come from our Scriptural reflections, but also contents of our A.C.T.S. My own faith has often been strengthened by seeing some of my supplications being answered as I give thanks.
- (4) Supplication: I encourage you to use the weekly intercessory page to practice the discipline of faithful intercession for all the people and ministries that God has laid in your heart.

Scriptural Reflection Format

The Inductive Bible Study method made popular by IVF is the most helpful way for understanding the Word of God in a more meaningful and deeper way. The basic IBS method entails

- (1) Reading a self-contained section of the Scripture repeatedly, say two or three times, without jumping into interpreting any of its contents, and
- (2) Asking the basic question of observation (WHAT is happening in the narrative or WHAT is the plain teaching, if it is not a narration), then reflecting on the two interpretative questions (HOW did the incident happen and WHY, or HOW is the teaching worded and WHY), and finishing with the important reflective question of SO WHAT, meaning how should it apply to us.

Since not everyone is schooled in IBS, I have used IVF's proven IBS reflection tool, *Search the Scripture* for the first quarter's reflection based on the gospel of Luke, which contains a lot of emphasis on the demand of "Total Surrender" as Christ's disciples. (*Search the Scripture* is unfortunately out of print).

A Weekly Guide

This Guide is written as a weekly guide in that we provide

- (1) One Invocation Prayer for use for the 7 days
- (2) One Psalm for adoration, which is not meant to be used as “Bible Study”. We encourage you to read through the Psalm so assigned two or three times, and hold one or two major thoughts each day for use to adore God for who He is or what He has done,
- (3) We also provide a short meditative reflection in addition to the IBS reflection, so that even if you, for whatever reason, get stuck that day without much insight from your IBS, you may be supplemented with a reflection easier to grasp. But do treat the meditative reflection like a “supplement”, not as a main diet for the day, and
- (4) We also provide a “benediction” each week for you to receive the blessing from the Scripture as you spend time with the Lord.

A True Sabbath for the Week

The Guide is aimed to help you cultivate a daily devotion of about 30 to 45 minutes each day. But we encourage you to set aside one day during the week (most likely a Saturday or Sunday) where you can learn to practice a time of devotion for about two hours. We encourage you to get a hold of *Connecting with God, A Spiritual Formation Guide* (US\$12) for use in each of the weeks in the 1st quarter. Your small group/fellowship may want to adopt this book to help your members to further practice this devotional discipline (in order to give you a taste of this helpful tool, I have incorporated its first lesson into the 1st week’s meditative reflection.).

Note: We are providing the LGC Guide for the week beginning January 4 and will continue to do so through the rest of 2010.