

Journal

A CLOSER WALK



**(name of your church
&
times of services)**

© David S. Young, 8/25/09, Springs of Living Water. This spiritual disciplines folder is adapted from Appendix 10 of *Springs of Living Water, Christ-Centered Church Renewal*, (Scottsdale: Herald Press, 2008), pp. 348-363 using Richard Foster's book *Celebration of Discipline, The Path to Spiritual Growth*. Daily readings are adapted from the study guide for that resource.

Found in English and Spanish in Appendix 10 of the *Springs of Living Water* book, the folder comes with permission to copy.

Section III: The Corporate Disciplines

A Closer Walk

The purpose of the spiritual disciplines is to grow closer to Jesus. We will be exploring time honored practices which lead us to place ourselves before God so God can work in and through our lives. Our desire is for a closer walk with Jesus which happens as we practice spiritual disciplines.

The theme “A Closer Walk” comes from our Brethren heritage. The desire of early Brethren was to ponder the scriptures and to use them as a pattern for faith and action. What a worthy goal today! We can have the scriptures literally shape our lives and guide us in our daily living.

As a congregation we will be exploring a spiritual discipline week by week, followed by a daily reading from scripture on that discipline. Each week we will grow in our understanding of that practice and have it shape our lives. This leads us to take up a deeper walk in faith.

All this sets the stage for the spiritual renewal process in our church. Rather once and forever done, renewal according to the Apostle Paul is from day to day. We are excited to lay a spiritual base as we consider the strengths of our church and move to a vision and implement a plan.

The spiritual disciplines become life-long practices that help us grow spiritually. Let us be in prayer for one another as we seek to take the next incremental step in our walk of faith and for our congregation as we go about renewal and center on a closer walk with Christ Jesus.

Below are Bible readings for your daily time of Bible reading and prayer. Read them slowly, perhaps twice, and meditate on them to develop “**A Closer Walk.**” Have prayer asking God to lead you in what the scripture suggests.

A Closer Walk

Section I: Inward Disciplines

Week 1 The Discipline of Meditation

Message: “Keeping Our Mind on Christ...So That We May Not Lose Heart” - Psalm 1:2; Psalm 19:14; Hebrews 12:2,3

Monday: The friendship of meditation / Exodus 33:11

Tuesday: The terror of meditation / Exodus 20:18-19

Wednesday: The object of meditation / Psalm 1:1-3

Thursday: The comfort of meditation / I Kings 19:9-18

Friday: The insights of meditation / Acts 10:9-20

Saturday: The ecstasy of meditation / 2 Corinthians 12:1-4

Week 9 The Discipline of Confession

Message: “The Lost Discipline” – James 5:16, 1 John 1:9

Monday: The promise of forgiveness / Jeremiah 31:34, Matthew 26:28, Ephesians 1:7

Tuesday: The assurance of forgiveness / 1 John 1:5-10

Wednesday: Jesus Christ, our Adequate Savior, Mediator, and Advocate / 2 Corinthians 6:21, 1 Timothy 2:5, 1 John 2:1

Thursday: A parable of confession / Luke 15:11-24

Friday: Authority and forgiveness / Matthew 16:19, 18:18, John 20:23

Saturday: The ministry of the Christian Fellowship / James 5:13-16

Week 10 The Discipline of Worship

Message: “When You Worship Five Elements of Christian Worship” – Isaiah 6:1-8

Monday: Communion: the essence of worship / John 6:52-58, 6:63

Tuesday: The life of worship / Ephesians 5:18-20, Colossians 3:16-17

Wednesday: The Lord high and lifted up / Isaiah 6:1-8

Thursday: Sing to the Lord / Psalm 96

Friday: Worship of all creation / Psalm 148

Saturday: Worthy is the Lamb / Revelation 5:6-14

Week 11 The Discipline of Guidance

Message: “Led by God” – Acts 15:28

Monday: The guidance of divine Providence / Genesis 24:1-21

Tuesday: The guidance of Justice and obedience / Isaiah 1:17, 18-20

Wednesday: Led into all truth / Proverbs 3:5-6, John 14:6, 16:13, Acts 10:1-35

Thursday: Closed doors, open doors / Acts 16:6-10, 2 Corinthians 2:12

Friday: Listening or resisting? / Acts 21:8-14

Saturday: The family likeness / Romans 8:14, 28-30

Week 12 The Discipline of Celebration

Message: “Joy” – Galatians 5:22

Monday: The joy of the Lord / 2 Samuel 6:12-19

Tuesday: Bless the Lord / Psalm 103

Wednesday: Praise the Lord / Psalm 150

Thursday: Hosanna! / Luke 19:35-40, John 12:12-19

Friday: Walking and leaping and praising God / Acts 3:1-10

Saturday: Hallelujah! / Revelation 19:1-8

Week 2 The Discipline of Prayer

Message: “Lord, Teach Us to Pray” – Mark 1:35; Luke 11:1; Luke 11:2-13, I Thessalonians 5:17

Monday: The prayer of worship / Psalm 103

Tuesday: The prayer of repentance / Psalm 51

Wednesday: The prayer of thanksgiving / Psalm 150

Thursday: The prayer of guidance / Matthew 26:36-46

Friday: The prayer of faith / James 5:13-18

Saturday: The prayer of command / Mark 9:14-29

Week 3 The Discipline of Fasting

Message: “Fasting is Feasting” – John 4:32,34; II Corinthians 11:27; Acts 13:2,3

Monday: God’s chosen fast / Isaiah 58:1-7

Tuesday: A partial fast / Daniel 10:1-14

Wednesday: A normal fast / Nehemiah 1:4-11

Thursday: An absolute fast / Esther 4:12-17

Friday: The inauguration of the gentile mission / Acts 13:1-3

Saturday: The appointment of elders in the churches / Acts 14:19-23

Week 4 The Discipline of Study

Message: “Study to Show Thyself Approved” – 2 Timothy 3:16, 17

Monday: The source of truth / James 1:5, Hebrews 4:11-13, 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Tuesday: What to study / Philippians 4:8-9, Colossians 3:1-17

Wednesday: The value of study / Luke 10:38-42

Thursday: Active study / Ezra 7:10, James 1:19-25

Friday: Study in the evangelistic enterprise / Acts 17:1-3, 17:10-12, 19:8-10

Saturday: The study of a nonverbal book / Proverbs 24:30-34

A Closer Walk

Section II: Outward Disciplines

Week 5 The Discipline of Simplicity

Message: “Tis A Gift to Be Simple” – Matthew 6:25-33

Monday: Simplicity as trust / Matthew 6:25-34

Tuesday: Simplicity as obedience / Genesis 15

Wednesday: The generosity of simplicity / Leviticus 25:8-12

Thursday: Simplicity in speech / Matthew 5:33-37, James 5:12

Friday: Simplicity and justice / Amos 5:11-15, 24, Luke 4:16-21

Saturday: The freedom from covetousness / Luke 12:13-34

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Week 6 The Discipline of Solitude

Message: “Alone With God” – Matthew 6:5-6, 9:35-38

Monday: Prayer and solitude / Matthew 6:5-6, Luke 5:16

Tuesday: The insights of solitude / Psalm 8

Ash Wednesday: “The dark night of the soul” / Jeremiah 20:7-18

Thursday: The solitude of the garden / Matthew 26:36-46

Friday: The solitude of the cross / Matthew 27:32-50

Saturday: The compassion that comes from solitude / Matthew 9:35-38,
23:37

Week 7 The Discipline of Submission

Message: “The Cross Life” – Philippians 2:1-11

Monday: The example of Christ / Philippians 2:1-11

Tuesday: The example of Abraham / Genesis 22:1-19

Wednesday: The example of Paul / Galatians 2:19-21

Thursday: Submission in the marketplace / Matthew 5:38-48

Friday: Submission in the family / Ephesians 5:21-6:9, 1 Peter 3:1-9

Saturday: Submission with reference to the state / Romans 13:1-10,
Acts 4:13-20, 5:27-29, 16:35-39

Week 8 The Discipline of Service

Message: “The Towel Life” – John 13:14,15

Monday: The sign of service / John 13:1-17

Tuesday: The commitment of service / Exodus 21:2, 21:5-6,
1 Corinthians 9:19

Wednesday: The attitude of service / Colossians 3:23-25

Thursday: Service in the Christian fellowship / Romans 12:9-13

Friday: The ministry of small things / Matthew 25:31-39

Saturday: Service exemplified / Luke 10:29-37

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Copy to Dedicate

A Closer Walk

God leads us to our next disciplines of growth. Rather than trying to do everything, we seek the next incremental step in practices that lead us to a closer walk with God.

Below are some such disciplines of practices to grow in faith. We will dedicate our intention to God and ask God's help to be faithful in our spiritual disciplines.

Let us be in prayer for one another as we seek to be faithful. We will be grateful for the rewards that come from a life of prayer and devotion and discover "A Closer Walk".

1. Weekly participate in worship
2. Weekly participate in Sunday School
3. Daily read and meditate on scripture and have prayer
4. What one spiritual discipline do you feel God is drawing you to in order to have a closer walk? Practice that discipline for these 12 weeks and note any differences in your life.
5. Enter the discipline of sharing your faith with someone, perhaps giving them one of these folders and inviting them to worship during this season.
6. Pray daily for renewal of the church
7. Other commitment to God you would like to make for these twelve weeks. Let the disciplines help you fulfill this goal.

I am asking God's help as I make this commitment.

Personal Copy

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