

LESSON NO. 10

DISCIPLESHIP WITH PASSION

DISCIPLESHIP
LESSONS FOR
YOUNG ADULTS

DEVOTIONAL
LIFE

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 **vangelism**
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LESSON NO. 10

DEVOTIONAL LIFE

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Biblical Basis: Psalm 42:1-2 and
John 7:37-39

Text to memorize: John 7:38

PURPOSE

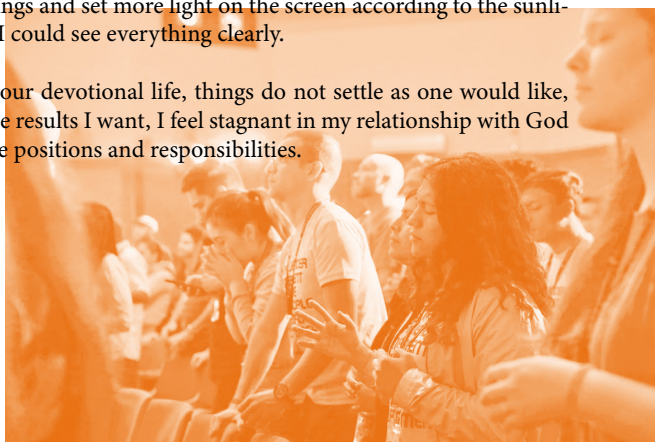
To creatively practice a devotional life supported by certain individual and collective spiritual disciplines.

REAL LIFE STORY

I turned on my cell phone in broad daylight, the sunlight hit the screen directly, I couldn't see anything clearly, first I rubbed my eyes, then I thought my device was about to break down. Then I remembered some advice from a gadget friend who told me that most of us do not know how to make the most of our equipment, that if we knew how to handle the settings of our devices, we would get the most out of them.

So, I did that, I went to the settings and set more light on the screen according to the sunlight that is detected and bingo! I could see everything clearly.

Something similar happens in our devotional life, things do not settle as one would like, time is lacking, I do not have the results I want, I feel stagnant in my relationship with God or overwhelmed by my multiple positions and responsibilities.



WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE SAY?

A. Rivers of living water. In the gospel according to John chapter 7, we see a crucial teaching that Jesus gives us so that we can live with devotion. They were celebrating the feast of the tabernacles, one of the most important for the Jewish people, in which the life of the Hebrews was remembered in the desert on their way to the promised land, and God's provision. However, this need to quench thirst can be misdirected and Jeremiah 2:13 tells us "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water."

So, the first point of a devotional life is to regain our trust in Jesus and ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with His presence, peace, and joy.

What commitments to activities should you adjust or eliminate to dedicate a sole time to share with God?

What activities can you eliminate because they are time consuming, unnecessary, and only cause you more dissatisfaction or distance from God?

B. Loving others as me. Luke shows us in Acts 2:42-47 that the Christians of that time shared bread with joy and simplicity of heart. On the other hand, James points out that confessing sins to one another gives us healing.

We will do a practical test, answer the questions, each affirmative answer will be part of your devotional plan for the next weeks God willing.

Is there an offense to forgive? Yes () No ()

Is there a message of salvation to share? Yes () No ()

Is there a time of harmony with a relative/friend I shouldn't postpone? Yes () No ()

Do I need a moment to evaluate if I am loving myself correctly? Yes () No ()

C. Devotion is to serve others. Life in adoration of Jesus affects everything, those who are around us, even if they do not know Him yet, are also impacted, one way to worship Jesus is by serving others, looking for someone's needs, if God has given us resources and skills to bless others, then we must do it.

Identify some specific people you can serve as part of your devotional life.

- Widows, elders of the congregation or neighborhood.
- Single moms or dads, unprotected children, orphans from nearby centers or on the streets where you walk.
- Migrants passing by your home or by nearby train stations.

WHAT IS DEVOTION?

The Royal Academy of the Spanish Language defines devotion in several ways, we will see 3 of them:

1. Religious love, veneration, and fervor.
2. Non-obligatory compassionate practice.
3. Readiness with which you are willing to worship God and do His holy will.

For us Christians, our devotion is to God and our Lord Jesus Christ, that is, our life lives relating to Him, worshiping Him in everything as 1 Corinthians 10:31 affirms “Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God”, there we find meaning, direction, belonging, purpose, and salvation, that's why devotional life is so important.



BIBLICAL SUPPORT



Christians are people who go against the tide of selfishness and achievements for self-exaltation, we are called to do everything for the glory of God, that is a devotional life.

From its beginnings, Christianity was clear about three aspects of life that are interlaced, and we can summarize as follows:

1. The life of devotion is a relationship of love and obedience to God that flows from within us through the work of the Holy Spirit.
2. The life of devotion is friendship, coexistence, and accountability among the brothers in Christ, devotion takes place accompanied.
3. The life of devotion is service to the church and to the community.

It is likely that you already have a personal prayer time and a type of Bible study established, also maybe you are already participating in a small group or a Sunday school class, if you do not already have it, you need to set a date to start.

Now we need to make our adjustments to life so that it shows our devotion to God, like that cell phone we talked about at the beginning.

"Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."

- John 7:38





REFLECTION

1. Recognize the need for a devotional life, not just to do something for God.
Be intentional and review the points you wrote down where you need to be satiated and make your reading plan. If you have already identified activities that you must adjust or suspend to dedicate yourself to living with God, talk with your mentor and youth leader to help you; if you saw activities that distract and hinder you, you can also comment on how you will eliminate them with God's help. Write down on your calendar or agenda.
2. Focus more on relationships over activities.
From the list of loving others like I love myself, rescue the relationships that you need to heal, if it is necessary to have a sincere talk with your mentor to overcome a struggle or habit, or also if you need to have a time of coexistence and rest without any other purpose, also look for a time to recreate with a family member or friend thanking God for it. Set a date.
3. Loving God and neighbor should be the reason for our devotional life.
Every action or inaction must reflect love.

Answer the following questions on a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being the minimum and 10 the maximum.

You must be sincere, do not answer what you think should be, but your feelings.

Do I consider myself responsible for the state of my relationship with God?

God knows how I feel today and what makes me happy or frustrates me?

Do I try to make love the motivation for my daily actions?

This test is intended to help us adjust our devotional life. The rating for each question tells you where you need adjustments with the help of the Holy Spirit.

PRACTICE

Write down and schedule an appointment with God, with date and time.

It will be a time of coexistence with Him, in which you will have as a priority to recognize your thirst for Him, needs and gratitude.

In regard to love your neighbor as yourself to bless and heal.

Write down the names of the people to whom you will dedicate time this month to accompany each other, to ask for forgiveness, to encourage each other, to be together, or with whom you are going to have a sincere conversation to review with God your love for yourself and your life of integrity.

After identifying people to serve, write your action plan.

Having visualized these people in need, perhaps it is difficult for you to do it alone, you can ask a friend from NYI to accompany you, or if there is already a compassion ministry and it can be directed to support you in that, it would be very great.

Making a plan to save the money they give you a week or a month, or your income, and set aside something to help these needy people is a good option, then choose how to bless them, such as giving provisions to an elderly neighbor, visiting an orphanage, etc.

If you have a profession to be able to advise in a legal, psychological, social, or pedagogical way, and you have already identified people with this need, what follows is to make a plan. If it later becomes a plan of your NYI, Great! But take your steps to honor God and have a better relationship with Him and with your neighbor.