

Short Bible Devotions

Here's a handful of short Bible studies written to help you understand God's view of Church. Try as many as you can make time for!

Devotion 1: The Joyful Assembly

Read Hebrews 12 verses 22-24 and 28-29, and then pray for God's help!

1. The author is talking about where God really sees Christian worshippers when they meet together. In verses 22-24 where are they, and who else is there?
2. *Reflect.* How does it grow your affection for God and for being part of St Andrew's, knowing that we are part of this heavenly joyful assembly?
3. In verse 23, Jesus is the "firstborn" who has written our names in heaven. What contribution has his "sprinkled blood" made to us? How does chapter 10 verses 19 & 22 help you understand that?
4. *Reflect.* Church is truly a heavenly experience. We are only part of this experience because Jesus has shed his blood for us, so we can enter God's holy presence. How does v28 help us to respond to these marvellous truths?

Why not give thanks to God for this true vision of church, and pray that it would help you to be thankful and keep worshipping God all of your days?

Devotion 2: Shaped by Jesus

Read Colossians 3 verses 12-17, and then pray for God's help!

1. In v12, what does Paul the author remind us about our true identity, before he instructs us?
2. How should dearly loved and forgiven Christians live alongside one another in v12-14?

3. *Reflect.* What challenges you in these verses? What help do you need to ask God for, to be this kind of person?
4. What of Jesus, in v15-17 needs to "rule" and "dwell" among us, as we live as God's people together? How do these things relate to thanksgiving?
5. *Reflect.* Imagine the kind of church that is being pictured in these verses. How could you contribute to St Andrew's being like this?

Give great thanks to God for all he has done for us in Jesus. Ask for God's help with your answers to 3 and 5. And pray that St Andrew's might be a people always guided by Christ's message, the Bible, and his peace in our relationships.

Devotion 3: Living like the Early Church

Read Acts 2 verses 42-47, and then pray for God's help!

1. These verses show us what things were important to the Church in the days soon after Jesus' resurrection and ascension into heaven. In v42, what did they devote themselves to? How does the word "devoted" challenge you here?
2. How do verses 44-46 show us the commitment of the Christian believers to one another?
3. *Reflect.* Where have you seen similar devotion and sacrifice among our church family at St Andrew's? Give thanks to God for it!
4. In v47, how did the people treat God, and how did the Lord grow this Early Church?
5. *Reflect.* How do these verses help us prioritise what is important at St Andrew's? What can we pray for ourselves and how can we ask the Lord to act?

Praise God for Jesus. Ask him to add people to his kingdom and to our church family. And pray that we might live more and more like these early disciples.