

Short Bible Devotions

Here's some short Bible studies written to help us consider serving our Lord Jesus.

Devotion 1: Served by Jesus

Read **John 13:1-17**, and then pray for God's help!

1. Verses 3 to 5 speak of Jesus' extraordinary power and his choice to serve the disciples. What is extraordinary here? How does this fuel your love for Jesus?
2. How do verses 8 and 10 teach us about our need for first-time "washing" and continued "washing" from Jesus? Note how Jesus reassures Peter he is clean, but also commands his feet be washed.
3. *Reflect.* In v7 Jesus shows us that the washing points to the cross of Christ. Why is this a good picture for what Jesus has done, and continues to do, for Christians?
4. Christians cannot save one another from sin: only Jesus can do that. So what do you think Jesus is saying to us in verses 12-14?

Give thanks to God for Jesus' extraordinary choice to serve sinners, and that the foot-washing helps us understand what he did at the cross. Come to Jesus afresh today, asking him to keep cleansing you from sin, and for help to follow his example of sacrificial service.

Devotion 2: Serving together to grow like Jesus

Read **Ephesians 4:11-16**, and then pray for God's help!

1. In verse 12, what are God's people being prepared to do? And what happens as they serve one another?
2. In verse 11, those who teach the Bible to God's church are gifts from Jesus to his church. How do these people help us all serve (see v12)?

3. As all the people in v11-12 serve in their various ways in church, what is the result in verses 13-15?
4. *Reflect.* What is attractive about the pictures used here to describe the body of Jesus, with him as our head (v15)? Why can Christian service never be an individual-only thing? What is reassuring about Jesus' involvement in our service (v16)?

Thank God for the different gifts he gives to his people. Pray that the Bible would shape you as a servant. Ask that St Andrew's would become this united and mature body of people, with Jesus as our head, as we all serve Him together.

Devotion 3: Gifted to serve

Read **Romans 12:1-8**, and then pray for God's help!

1. In verse 1, how does Paul sum up God's great salvation plan for humanity in one word? How does this word help you understand what Jesus has done for us?
2. What is the right response to this mercy in verse 1?
3. What new mind-set in Christians should this mercy bring about (in verses 2 & 3)?
4. *Reflect.* Thinking of Jesus' death and resurrection as showing God's mercy to you, how do you need to "live up" to the commands of verses 2 and 3?
5. In verses 4 to 8, what is different about the many members of God's people? And yet what shared understanding should motivate us in using our different gifts? (see v5)
6. *Reflect.* What gifts have you been given to serve God's people? How does God's mercy and belonging to a church family encourage you to use these gifts?

Thank God for his mercy, and ask for the help to daily offer yourself as a living sacrifice to him. Ask for help for wisdom to know how to use your gifts.