



Formation Devotional

Forming Worship, Life, and Ministry Together at Christ Covenant Church

Daily Formation Devotional 2020

At Christ Covenant Church we desire to see [first part of Our Vision] *a movement of the gospel that brings about personal conversion and renewal*. We want to encourage you to participate in God's means of grace in 2020 so that God, by his grace, can bring about in personal renewal in our lives. Therefore, we are providing our church family with the Daily Formation Devotional.

We believe habits shape our loves over time. Therefore, we want to encourage you in the daily habit of prayer and use of God's Scriptures. When we trust in God through prayer and his word he uses the truths of the gospel to renew our lives. We are providing the CCC family with a Daily Formation Devotional to be used for God's purposes in your life.

This devotional is designed to be used in the morning and evening. You will be encouraged to use it in whole or in part. We suggest you begin using it by spending 15 minutes each morning and evening, and that you build on this over time.

It is a combination of prayers and Bible readings for morning and evening and is ordered in some ways like the liturgy, or order of service, we use in our Sunday worship. The prayers will help form your praise, thanksgiving, confession, and intercession. The Bible reading will allow you to read through the Old Testament once in three years, the New Testament once each year, and the Psalms around six times each year.

Each of the elements in the devotional is designed for you to experience an extended conversation with God. God is continually inviting us into his presence through faith in Jesus Christ to quietly enjoy his presence, listen to him through his word, respond to him from our context in life, and be sent out from him with his blessing. Each morning and evening you will find:

Call to Prayer - you will begin with an invitation to God's presence through a reminder of who God is in his perfections.

Opening Prayer - you will be led through a prayer from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). These prayers have been used by the church for centuries and they draw us into worship as a corporate body of Christ.

Prayer of Confession - you will continue in God's presence with honest reflections on how we fall short of God's calling in our life to love him and others. They are expressions of our need for God's grace and forgiveness and will assure us of that. We will use the Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon from our Sunday worship to guide us through the week.

Praying the Psalms - you will experience daily God's prayer book as the prayer book of God's people. The psalms teach us to respond to God with a full range of thought and emotion. Sometimes the psalms do not connect with our immediate experience, but it may be connecting with someone's experience in your church, family, or work, or at another time in your life. You will learn to read through the psalms prayerfully.

Reading from the Old and New Testament - you will read a passage each morning from the New Testament and a reading from the Old Testament each evening. This is a time to listen to God speak to you from his word as he addresses your life.

Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving - you will continue in prayer through faith in Jesus as you pray for others. In the morning you will be guided to pray for the needs and concerns of your life, your family, your work, and your church. In the evening you will be giving thanks for what God is doing in each of these areas of your life.

Collect - you will conclude your intercession in the morning and thanksgivings in the evening with a collect. A "Collect" (kol-ect) is a set prayer that "collects" the community together in prayer. The collects will take our individual, personal prayer and make it communal as we know others in the church are praying it as well. In the morning you will end with the Lord's Prayer—Jesus' kingdom prayers. In the evening you will end with a selection from the Common Book of Prayer.

Benediction - you will end with a blessing that reminds us of God's intentions for our lives, sending us out knowing we live in the full assurance of God's love.

The devotional will be available through the church website. You will be able to "subscribe" to it so that it will come to your email inbox daily, and it will also be available for you to print.

We hope you will take advantage of using the Daily Formation Devotional as a church family. God has given us the privilege of coming into his presence daily through his Word and prayer. We believe God can use this daily devotional to bring about personal renewal through a movement of the gospel shaping our loves as the re-created image bearers of God. You can look for the first month or archives of past issues of the Daily Formation Devotional on our church website www.ccotc.org.

We have used the following works in providing this devotional:

English Standard Version (ESV) Bible

Book of Common Prayer

Redeemer Formation Devotional

Making Sense of the Bible, How to Connect with God Through His Word, David Whitehead, Bethany House Publishers, 2014

Seeking God's Face: Praying with the Bible through the Year, Written and compiled by Philip F. Reinders Faith Alive Christian Resources 2013