The Gospel of John

Devotional Worksheets

by
Anne Graham Lotz

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Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION.

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Preface

Recently, I came across a list someone had compiled of the things they had learned over a lifetime. The following are just a few of the items randomly selected from the list:

Age 6	I've learned that you can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
Age 9	I've learned that when I wave to people in the country, they stop what they are doing and wave back.
Age 12	I've learned that just when I get my room the way I like it, Mom makes me clean it up.
Age 25	I've learned that wherever I go, the world's worst drivers have followed me there.
Age 30	I've learned that if someone says something unkind about me, I must live so that no one will believe it.
Age 40	I've learned that motel mattresses are better on the side away from the phone.
Age 50	I've learned that you can tell a lot about a man by the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.
Age 60	I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life.
Age 70	I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.
Age 80	I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.
Age 90	I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.

The most knowledgeable people in the world are the greatest learners. God counseled the one who would be the leader of His people "to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law…It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the Lord his God and follow carefully all the words of this law."[1] Jesus instructed those who would be His disciples to "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me."[2]

This workbook is designed to help you as you continue a lifelong process of learning to listen to God as He speaks to you through His Word and of learning to obey God as an expression of your love for Him.[3]

My prayer is that as you meet the conditions of God's promise to Joshua, and you do not "let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; but meditate on it day and night,"[4] that you will also receive the promised blessing of success in possessing all that God has for you.

In His Joy,

Anne Graham Lotz

1 Deuteronomy 17:18-19
2 Matthew 11:29
3 John 14:23
4 Joshua 1:8

Instructions

Step #1: To complete the worksheets, begin by reading the designated passage of Scripture. This is printed for you on the worksheet in step #1.

Step #2: When you have finished reading the passage, move to step #2, making a verse-by- verse list of the outstanding facts. Don't get caught up in the details, just pinpoint the most obvious facts. Ask yourself, "Who is speaking?" "What is the subject?" "Where is it taking place?" "When did it happen?" and so on. As you make your list, try not to paraphrase, but use actual words from the passage itself. Take a moment now to read Psalm 119:33-37 in the completed example on the following page. When you have read the passage, look over the list of facts so that you understand these instructions more clearly.

Step #3: After looking at the passage and listing the facts, you are ready for step #3. Go back to the list of facts and look for a lesson to learn from each fact. Ask yourself, "What are the people doing that I should be doing?" "Is there a command that I should obey?" "…a promise that I should claim?" "…a warning that I should heed?" "…an example that I should follow?" Look over the lessons given in step #3 of the example from Psalm 119.

Step #4: The most meaningful step is #4, but you cannot do it until #1, #2, and #3 have been completed. In order to do #4, take the lessons you found in #3, and put them in the form of a question you could ask yourself, your spouse, your child, your friend, your neighbor, or your co-worker. As you write out the questions, listen for God to communicate to you personally through His Word.

There are some challenging passages in John. Don't get hung up on what you don't understand. Look for the general principles and lessons which can be learned. An example is given on the worksheets at the beginning of each lesson to help you get started. Remember, don't rush. It may take you several days of prayerful meditation on a given passage in order to discover meaningful lessons and hear God speaking to you. The object of these devotional studies is not to get through the worksheets, but to develop your personal relationship with God as you learn to communicate with Him.

Step #5: Read John prayerfully, objectively, thoughtfully, and attentively as you listen for God to speak. He may not speak to you through every verse, but He will speak. When He does, record the verse number, what it is He seems to be saying to you and your response to Him in step #5. You might like to date it as a means not only of keeping a spiritual journal, but also of holding yourself accountable to following through in obedience.

The following example from Psalm 119 has been completed in order to illustrate the previous instructions. Track each verse carefully through all five steps so you can see how the facts are developed into lessons which then unfold into personal questions. God bless you as you seek to learn this simple yet effective method of reading His Word that you might hear His Voice speaking to you personally through it.

EXAMPLE

1 Look in His Word

Feel free to underline, circle or otherwise mark the text if it will aid your study.

Psalm 119:33-37

33 Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees;
then I will keep them to the end.

34 Give me understanding, and I will keep your
law and obey it with all my heart.

35 Direct me in the path of your commands,
for there I find delight.

36 Turn my heart toward your statutes and not
toward selfish gain.

37 Turn my eyes away from worthless things;
preserve my life according to your word

2 List the Facts

What does the passage say? Make a verse-by- verse list of the most obvious, outstanding facts. Be literal as you answer.

119:33 Teach me to follow and keep Your decrees.

119:34 Give me understanding and I will keep and obey Your law.

119:35 Direct me in Your commands.

119:36 Turn my heart to Your statutes.

119:37 Turn my eyes and renew my life.

EXAMPLE

3 Learn from the Lessons

What does the passage mean? What lessons can be learned from these facts? Be spiritual as you answer.

119:33 Obedience to God's Word does not come automatically or naturally--it must be learned.

119:34 We need to ask God to give us understanding of His Word so that we can be obedient to it.

119:35 There is joy in living according to God's directions.

119:36 It requires conscientious effort to turn away from caring more about ourselves than God's Word.

119:37 Renewal is not a church program, it is God's promise to those who spend time in His Word.

4 Listen to His Voice

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from step 3 in the form of a question. Be personal as you answer.

119:33 How teachable am I?

119:34 When have I asked God to give me an understanding of His Word?

119:35 What real joy will I miss if I don't bother to read God's directions for my life?

119:36 Instead of grasping for time to myself, what effort am I willing to make to spend time with God in His Word?

119:37 If I am seeking to be renewed, what could be more worthwhile than Bible study?

5 Live in Response

How will you respond? Pinpoint what God is saying to you from this passage. Write down today's date and what you will do now about what He has said.

Example:

As I begin this study of God's Word, I choose to have a teachable spirit, opening my heart and mind to understanding and obeying the Scriptures that I might live a renewed life which is unselfish, joyful, and worthwhile.

Suggestions for Study

These worksheets are designed to be used as a companion to the study of the Gospel of John. Believing that God speaks to the individual through His Word, we have designed these worksheets to lead the Bible student through a series of questions concerning the Scripture passage. The exercises enable the reader to not only discover for himself or herself the eternal truths revealed by God in the Bible, but also to hear God speaking personally through His Word.

- Set aside a regular place for your Bible study.
- Set aside a regular time for your Bible study.
- Pray before beginning the day's assignment, asking God to speak to you through His Word.
- Write out your answers for each step of the worksheets in sequence - do not skip a step.
- Make the time to be still and listen, reflecting thoughtfully on your response in step #5.

Spiritual discipline is an essential part of an individual's ability to grow in his or her personal relationship with God through knowledge and understanding of His Word. We at AnGeL Ministries sincerely pray that these worksheets will provide you with an easy, meaningful format for this growth to occur. Please let us know if you have any comments or suggestions after you complete the study by writing to us or emailing us at the addresses below. We'd love to hear from you!

ANNE GRAHAM LOTZ
ANGEL MINISTRIES

5115 Hollyridge Drive, Raleigh, NC 27612-3111 USA • Tel: 919.787.6606 • Fax: 919.782.3669
info@angelministries.org • www.annegrahamlotz.org