

PREPARE A DEVOTIONAL

Theme: A Personal Encounter with God's Word

INTRODUCTION

Sharing how God is speaking to you through the Bible helps others to understand how meaningful it is to read the scriptures. Every time you share about the impact of God's word in your life, you are giving a taste of what it means to encounter a good God who made us for a relationship with Him. When you share with non-believers, the hope is that they will not only want a taste of God's word but to dive into a smorgasbord of His life-giving food. When you testify to believers, God's Word will spark great encouragement as they continue to pursue Him with steadfastness.

The pointers and prompts in this worksheet will help you organize your thoughts as you prepare to share a mini devotional based on a verse or a short selection of verses that have impacted you in some way.

A FEW POINTERS

- **Context is key.** You do not want to misrepresent God, so do your due diligence by studying ahead of time the entire chapter that the verse(s) you are sharing is taken from. If needed, consult a study Bible and someone you trust to ensure you understand the selection correctly.
- **Time management.** People do not have long attention spans, so consider your audience. Ideally, a short devotional would be between 3-10 minutes, depending on the situation of the event.
- **Consider your audience's knowledge.** If your audience is seasoned believers, you may not have to explain the scripture the same way you would to non-believers. However, be mindful that you may likely share with a mixed group of believers and non-believers.
- **Organize your thoughts.** The prompts are arranged in a way that may benefit you as you share a devotional. However, take personal liberty to change up the order. Perhaps sharing the context of the scripture before reading the verse(s) is better for you, or maybe beginning with a part of your personal story will make more sense before reading the verse(s). Regardless of how you choose to share, come prepared.

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WRITE IT OUT

VERSE

Prayerfully select a portion of scripture (one or more verses - not an entire chapter) that has impacted your life and record it below. It may be one that God used to reveal more of His character to you, to point out sin, give you direction, encourage you to stand firm in your faith, comfort you during grief, etc.

CONTEXT

Take a moment to convey what the book or chapter addresses, the historical circumstances surrounding the verse(s), or share about the selected theme. You do not need a long explanation, but it should help build an appropriate familiarity with the circumstance surrounding the scripture you are sharing.

PERSONAL CONNECTION

There is a reason you chose the scripture you plan to share. Take some time to explain the circumstances surrounding your encounter with God's word and why the verse(s) are meaningful to you. You know why it matters; now, take some time to explain it to someone else.