Daily Bible Reading and Prayer

Set aside at least 15 minutes each day to spend time with God, reading your Bible and praying. Set a specific time and establish a special place for your daily devotional

Sermon discussion guide: (Pick and choose from below.)

- Think through your relationship: family, friends, church people, acquaintances, neighbors, strangers, etc. Are there 'hot spots' people where you have difficulties in relating with them? Why is that? On a sheet of paper draw a line down the middle. At the top, on the left write, 'me' and on the right, 'them.' Jot down all the factors about them that make the relationship difficult. Then jog down all the factors about you that contribute to relational difficulties. Pray over this list and ask God to help you see all that you are responsible for in the relationship. Pray and forgive 'them' for all their stuff that makes the relationship difficult. Cross them off one by one as you forgive them.
- Take the 'Love One Another' test on the front. How'd you do? What difficulties do you have when it comes to expressing love for other people? How can you upgrade your ability to love other people? Hint: Loved people love people! So, make sure you're plugged into an experiential relationship with God where you're receiving love, security, value and significance from your Heavenly Father.

Daily Bible Reading this week.
Monday - Read *Is. 19-21; Heb. 11*
Tuesday - Read *Is. 22-24; Heb. 12*
Wednesday - Read *Is. 25-28; Heb. 13*
Thursday - Read *Is. 29-31; Jas. 1*
Friday - Read *Is. 32-35; Jas. 2*
Saturday - Read *2 Ki. 17; 2 Chr. 28; Ps. 46; Jas. 3*
Sunday - Read *2 Chr. 29-31; Jas. 4*

Life Journal Bible Reading Plan for 2008.
You can purchase a Life Journal for $5 at the info booth anytime today or at the church office Tuesday through Friday. The Life Journal contains a listing of Bible chapters to read every day through the year, for adults, two or three chapters a day. There are blank pages where you write in your observations, application and prayer about a portion of that day's readings that the Holy Spirit points out to you. Life Journal, First Steps, is for teens and there's also a children's edition, each for $5.
The Divine Mentor, "growing your faith as you sit at the feet of the Savior." by Wayne Codiero, Life Journal developer. At the info booth for $12.
Check out churchatcarbondale.com website, under 'learn and grow' to listen or download the 8 sermons in the Renewing the Mind series. This will help you renovate your life, one thought at a time.

July 13, 2008

Church at Carbondale
Personal Sermon Study Page

- *Jot notes on it*
- *Stick it in your Bible*
- *Keep it in a 3 ring notebook*
- *Go over it during the week*
- *Look up the verses in your Bible*
- *Discuss it with friends*

Love One Another

How are you doing when it comes to loving others. Take this quick test of Biblical descriptions from Jesus teaching, 1 Cor. 13 and Philippians 2. Mark any that apply.

☐ I find myself getting irritated with people who don't do things the way I want them done.
☐ I find myself wondering why others seem to get what they want while I don't seem to do as well.
☐ I usually interject stories about myself in conversations that make me look good.
☐ I avoid people who get on my nerves.
☐ When I see someone who has offended or irritated me, I quickly remember what they did and how it affected me.
☐ I have a hard time maintaining interest when listening to other people talk about themselves.
☐ I find myself mentally putting people down who don't do things the way I think they should.
☐ When I enter a room of strangers I tend to keep to myself.
☐ I don't spend much time with people who are different from me, in values, politics, race, background, appearance, etc.
☐ When I enter a room of strangers I quickly assess those who would be interesting to me, those who don't seem to have anything to offer, and spend my time with the interesting people.
☐ I have a hard time trusting people, I'm afraid I might get hurt or manipulated.

Obviously, the more you checked, the farther you may be from Loving One Another, as Jesus commanded. What do you need to work on? For example, if you checked #1, above, that'd indicate a problem with impatience. Each one highlights a relational attitude problem to be addressed. Happy transformation! If you're not sure how to answer some off them, ask someone who knows you well.

Phil 2:1-11
2:1 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ,
if any comfort from his love,
if any fellowship with the Spirit,
if any tenderness and compassion,
2 then make my joy complete
by being like-minded,
having the same love,
being one in spirit and purpose.
3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit,
but in humility consider others better than yourselves.
4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests,
but also to the interests of others.

5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
7 but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
8 And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death-
even death on a cross!
9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
NIV

People would say that I'm humble, that I demonstrate humility.
I look out for the interests of others as well as my own.
I am patient with others.
I am kind to others.
I protect the dignity of others.
I am trusting of others.
I am dependable and consistent in relationships.
I believe the best about people without being naïve.