

FOUNDATIONS

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

WORKBOOK

DEVOTION
TO GOD

DEVOTION TO
THE CHURCH

DEVOTION
TO MISSION

Life
Community Church
Storrington



FOUNDATIONS

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

WORKBOOK

**DEVOTION
TO GOD**

DEVOTION TO
THE CHURCH

DEVOTION
TO MISSION



The primary purpose of the Church is to serve and glorify God through our corporate and individual lives.

We demonstrate our devotion for God through:

PRAYER

There is power in the prayers of the righteous (James 5:16) and we are instructed to bring our requests before God (Philippians 4:6).

Jesus taught His disciples to pray for God's kingdom to come and His will to be done on the earth (Matthew 6:10).

Part of our devotion to God is to be committed to prayerfully lifting needs to God and seeking His heart and direction.

FOUNDATIONS

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

WORKBOOK

**DEVOTION
TO GOD**

DEVOTION TO
THE CHURCH

DEVOTION
TO MISSION

WORSHIP

Man was created to worship God (Revelations 4:11). Our worship is expressed through the giving of our lives as a living sacrifice to God (Romans 12:1). We believe that regular time and focus should be given to expressing our worship through praise and intimacy with God, both corporately and privately. Times of worship create an atmosphere for the presence of God to move, where we can be transformed into God's likeness (James 4:8).

STUDYING GOD'S WORD

The Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16) made alive to us through revelation by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:17). Like the early Church believers we are to devote ourselves to the teachings of Jesus and of the Apostles (Acts 2:42). Teaching of God's Word is essential to the life and growth of the Church. God's word has the power to radically change our thinking and is an essential tool in our pursuit of God. All doctrine must be tested against scripture (1 John 4:1) and all Christian beliefs and structures that are not founded on scripture alone should be treated as Church tradition, while they may be used and respected, they must never become dogma or grounds for disunity. Our study of God's Word must lead to application. We don't study for knowledge alone but so that we may out lives pleasing to God.

FOUNDATIONS

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

WORKBOOK

**DEVOTION
TO GOD**

DEVOTION TO
THE CHURCH

DEVOTION
TO MISSION

Reflection

Before you begin your reflection, we encourage you to get hold of a good journal to record your thoughts and answers. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you into a deeper knowledge of what Devotion to God means and what it should look like in your life. As you read through the Scriptures take time to meditate upon them.

Philippians 4:6-7 says, "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (ESV)

In this passage, Paul is instructing his readers that they are not to be anxious about anything.

Why do you think anxieties can affect our perspective of God?

In what ways can you stop yourself from becoming anxious?

Paul uses two words to express ways we communicate with God. Prayer and supplication.

What do you think the difference is between these two words?

(You may wish to look at a different Bible translation and a Greek concordance to better understand the original meaning of these words. You can find different translations and a concordance free the internet.)

Paul says that our requests are to be offered with thanksgiving.

How might a thankful heart change how we approach God in prayer?

FOUNDATIONS

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

WORKBOOK

**DEVOTION
TO GOD**

DEVOTION TO
THE CHURCH

DEVOTION
TO MISSION

Reflection

Romans 12:1 says "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

In this passage Paul appeals to his readers to present their bodies as a living sacrifice.

What do you think it means to be a living sacrifice?

How is being a living sacrifice spiritual worship?

As a church we give great emphasis to the importance of encountering God in times of worship.

What is the value of encountering God?

How can we prepare ourselves to encounter God in worship?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

If we believe that all scripture is God breathed how should this effect our attitude toward the Bible?

Paul lists four ways that scripture is profitable to us. Teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness.

In which of these ways has the bible impacted your life?

What areas are hard for you to apply Biblical teaching to your life?

FOUNDATIONS

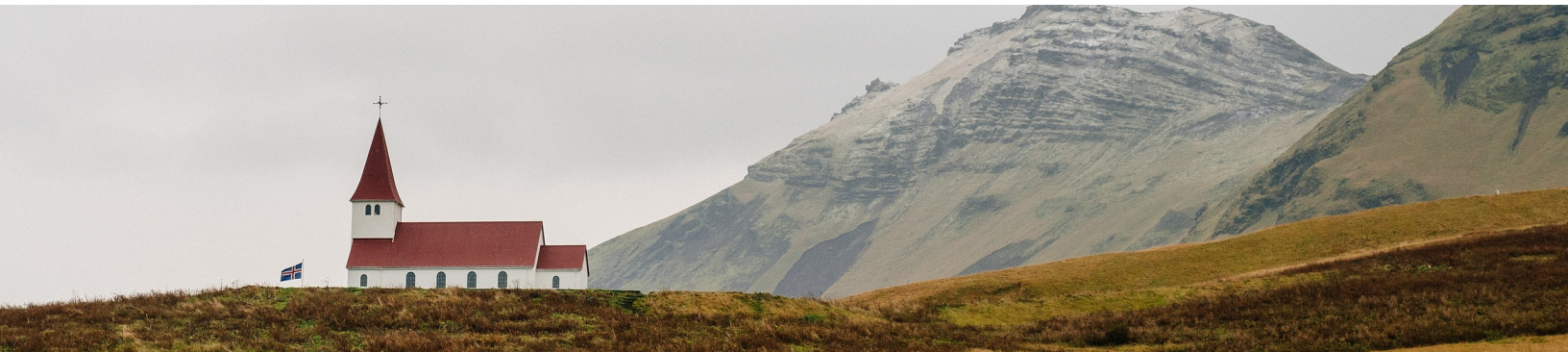
WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

WORKBOOK

DEVOTION
TO GOD

**DEVOTION TO
THE CHURCH**

DEVOTION
TO MISSION



The Bible refers to the Church as the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:22-33). As God's beloved, the Church should love and value herself as she is loved and valued by God.

We demonstrate this through:

UNITY

There is only one Church (Ephesians 4:4) made up of all true believers in Jesus Christ (Mark 16:16). The Church is called to maintain the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:1-6) that God has given to His Church. Christ prayed that the church might be one as He and the Father are one that the world might see Him (John 17:20-21). To this end we seek to work across denominational and structural barriers wherever possible, working together with other Church groups, local and throughout the world.

FOUNDATIONS

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

WORKBOOK

DEVOTION
TO GOD

**DEVOTION TO
THE CHURCH**

DEVOTION
TO MISSION

MEETING TOGETHER

It is vital for all Christians to be in fellowship with other believers, making Church gatherings a priority in their lives (Hebrews 10:25). We are to be accountable to godly leadership (Hebrews 13:17). As a church we believe that scripture lays out a strong plural structure for church leadership (1 Timothy 3) and while we recognise differences in gifting among our leaders we see no difference in position. Christians are to live in fellowship with one another, sharing what they have for the common good.

The church is to be a family where no one lacks what they need (Acts 2:42-45). The church is a body in which every member has a part to play. We encourage everyone in our congregation to be involved in ministry both within and outside the church. We believe that the Holy Spirit is our guide (John 16:13) and we seek for each member of the church to be released in the spiritual gifts that God desires them to be used in (1 Corinthians 12:7).

FOUNDATIONS

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

WORKBOOK

DEVOTION
TO GOD

**DEVOTION TO
THE CHURCH**

DEVOTION
TO MISSION

Reflection

As a people devoted to God it will follow that we will also be devoted to His church. The church is the bride of Christ and He loves her, if we love Christ then we will love what is dear to Him. Ask God to prepare your heart to be changed and your mind to be renewed as you consider how you are to be devoted to God's church. As you look at the questions below remember that a church is not a physical building but is a gathering of God's people.

Ephesians 4:2-3 says " with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Paul instructs the Ephesians that they should be eager to maintain the unity that the Holy Spirit has given to them.

How important is to you to maintaining unity with other Christians?

Acts 2:42-44 gives reference to the devotion of the early church, "they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common."

The early church held teaching in high regard.

How important is teaching to you?

What do you feel it means for a church to be devoted to 'the fellowship'?

How can we move toward having all things in common with our church family?

FOUNDATIONS

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

WORKBOOK

DEVOTION
TO GOD

DEVOTION TO
THE CHURCH

**DEVOTION
TO MISSION**



The Church has been given a very clear mandate to take the gospel into all the world, loving the lost and making disciples of all nations (Mark 16:15 and Matthew 28:19) We demonstrate this through:

LOCAL MISSION

The local Church is called to be a lamp stand in its area, giving light in darkness and ready to give an account of what we believe (1 Peter 3:15). The members of the Church are to be ready to support and participate in Church initiatives to reach our local area. We are to seek and take opportunities to share the gospel with our friends, family and neighbours through our words and acts of kindness.

FOUNDATIONS

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

WORKBOOK

DEVOTION
TO GOD

DEVOTION TO
THE CHURCH

**DEVOTION
TO MISSION**

GLOBAL MISSION

Jesus' commission was to take the gospel into all the world. The Church is to support the advancement of the gospel and to go wherever God calls us to.

SOCIAL ACTION

Alongside our mission to reach the lost with the gospel is the call to God's Church to care for the poor, the sick, the widows, and the orphans (James 1:27). To be a voice for those that have none and to seek justice for all. We are to serve those in need both spiritually and physically, giving of ourselves, not for an earthly reward or recognition but as in honour of and service to Christ (Matthew 25:31-46).

FOUNDATIONS

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

WORKBOOK

DEVOTION
TO GOD

DEVOTION TO
THE CHURCH

**DEVOTION
TO MISSION**

Reflection

Just as our devotion to God will lead us to be devoted to His church, it will also lead us to be devoted to His commission.

2 Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord is not slow to fulfil His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."

God's desire is that all should come to know Him through repentance.

How important to you is the need to share the gospel?

How can we develop our compassion for the lost?

1 Peter 3:15 says, "but in your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,"

Peter tells us to be ready to share the reason for our hope.

How can we allow people to see the hope we have in Christ?

What do you believe he means by giving a defence for your hope?

Consider writing out your defence for what you believe remember that it is to be given with gentleness and respect.

James 1:27 says, "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."

Alongside the proclamation of the gospel the church is called to care for the vulnerable.

What are you doing to demonstrate 'true religion'?