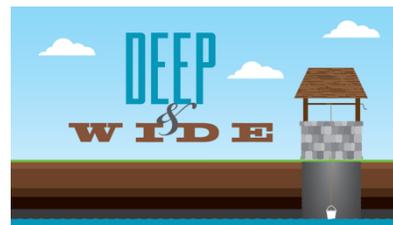


# DAILY QUIET TIME GUIDE

BREVARD COMMUNITY CHURCH

DEEP AND WIDE – WEEK 1

DEVOTIONAL ADAPTED FROM: NEXT STEPS/SERVE



## HOW TO HAVE A DAILY QUIET TIME

The QT Guide is designed to help you MOVE with God through Bible Reading, reflection and prayer. It can be completed in about 7 mins.

**½ Minutes Preparing Your Heart:** Invest the first 30 seconds preparing your heart. You might pray, “Lord, cleanse my heart so You can speak to me through the Scriptures. Make my mind alert, my soul active, and my heart responsive. Surround me with Your presence during this time.

**4 Minutes Listening To God:** Take the next four minutes to read the Bible. Your greatest need is to hear a word from God. Allow the Word to strike fire in your heart. Meet the Author!

**2 1/2 Talking To God (Prayer):** After God has spoken through His Book, then speak to Him in prayer.

## DAY 1

Matthew 6:25-34, Psalms 50:9-12, Philippians 4:6-7, Romans 8:28

### WHAT ABOUT ME?

Maybe you've started following Jesus and you're wondering if serving at church is your next step.

Many times we'll hear people ask questions like: If I'm called to serve and make my life about others, how will I get taken care of? If I want things to happen in my life, how can I go around just handing things out to others and being selfless? It's a dog-eat-dog world after all. Don't I have to hoard everything I get so I'll have plenty?

*Jesus teaches the exact opposite.*

There's a passage in Matthew that essentially goes like this: Jesus says when we care about the things that He cares about (like His Church and other people who don't know Jesus), He will take care of the rest. God's Word says on countless occasions that He owns everything and is in control of everything. So rather than working ourselves to death to get what we want (financial security, healthy relationships, purpose), we can put God and His purposes first and He'll make sure we get what we need. What a different way to live!

*If you feel like your whole life you've been on an endless and unsuccessful search for peace, this is the answer!* There's only one who can work out the other things in life that we need and it's God.

This is why we serve in church.

## DAY 2

Matthew 6:25-34, Matthew 10:39, Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalms 28:7, Psalms 37:3-6

## **WHAT ABOUT ME?**

You've probably experienced this phenomenon before: The more you focus on yourself, the less content and satisfied you actually become. The happiest people are the ones that learn the art of being selfless. Jesus talks about this exact idea - if we were to "lose" our life, we would actually find it.

**It's when we grip so hard in fear of losing our life, that we actually choke it to death.**

We have a hard time letting go of our "self-preservation" instinct. But think for a moment about a time you've seen God move in your life. Think about what it felt like to trust that you'd be taken care of. When we understand God intervenes on our behalf, we learn to trust Him with knowing what's best for us. We start believing that He can take care of the things that we need. And when we let go of our grip, we have so much more time, energy, and focus to extend to those who don't even know about God's love for them.

**This is why we serve.**

## **DAY 3**

Matthew 6:25-34, Romans 5:6-8, Romans 10:13-15, 2 Peter 3:9, John 3:16, Luke 19:10

## **WHAT ABOUT THEM?**

Who exactly are these people that we're "serving" at church? Why do they need to be served? What are we actually doing to serve them?

What we believe is that there is a good and perfect God who loves us. He created us and chose to love us even though we were sinful. We hurt others, we hurt ourselves, we've made mistakes, and yet God still loves us. And when we come to truly understand that deep in our hearts, we begin to experience an unbelievable joy and our lives begin to change. We want that joy and life-changing experience for others too.

**In fact, God's Word says that He makes us into a brand-new creation: that the old is gone and the new has come.**

We begin to understand that the way we felt before: hopeless, addicted, weary, depressed, anxious - others still feel that way because they DON'T know about God's love for them. And since we believe God has changed our lives, we want to help someone else understand how God can change theirs.

So, on Sundays we have the opportunity to make people feel welcome in church by greeting them, leading them in music, or by teaching their kids about Jesus. We can serve others to show them that God feels about them the way He feels about us.

**This is why we serve.**

## DAY 4

Matthew 6:25-34, Ezekiel 11:19-20, Psalms 85:11, Matthew 9:37-38

### WHAT ABOUT THEM?

Not only do we want a better life here on earth for those who don't know Christ, the Bible says without knowing Christ, our eternity is destined for hell and separation from God. So, when we serve, it's not just to make people's lives better, but to help them to make a wise eternal decision. We want them to understand the weight of their sin and to recognize that Jesus died to save them.

**In fact, we don't even serve out of obligation - we serve because we're burdened by the idea of our friends and family spending eternity apart from their Creator.**

It keeps us up at night.  
It bothers our souls.  
It ignites us into action.

We serve because we know in the midst of doing our part, God honors that and shows up and captures people's hearts. God's Word says that He alone has the power to soften and harden people's hearts towards Him, so we commit our time to Him and trust that He will honor it and move on behalf of our friends and family.

**We are concerned about others being eternally separated from God. This is why we serve.**

## DAY 5

Matthew 6:25-34, John 13:1-17, Acts 20:35, 1 Peter 4:8-10, Mark 10:44-45

### WHAT ABOUT HIM?

Maybe the most compelling reason to serve is because of Jesus' example. Time and time again we find the God of the Heavens and Earth, the creator of the Universe, the Alpha and Omega doing things like washing people's feet, healing the sick, conversing with the rejected. Jesus' life sent a message: serve others.

Many times, people end up at churches thinking that everything that happens there is for THEM. This is an immature way of viewing church. When God begins to change your life, you quickly realize He was never a consumer and He didn't mean for you to be either.

*Christians who have been in church for years are often not at church to wash someone's feet.*

But if we claim to follow Jesus, we must do what He did, and what He did was serve. His consistent message was not one of self-promotion or pride, but of servanthood and humility.

**Jesus served and we follow Jesus. This is why we serve.**

## DAY 6

Matthew 6:25-34, Isaiah 66:2, Philippians 2:5-8, James 4:6, James 4:10

### WHAT ABOUT HIM?

The scary thing about being in church and around church people long enough is the temptation to assume that the good life you have in Christ was as a result of something you did. When this type of prideful thinking creeps in, it can be hard to see it in yourself. Here are some signs you're beginning to slip into that mentality: Suddenly your time is more important than others, so serving becomes less necessary. You begin to think people earlier on in their walk with Christ know less than you and have to start out "earning their stripes" by serving, or you just attend church less and less.

*If there were anyone that would've had the right to be prideful and to have others serve Him, it would've been Jesus.*

He lived a perfect life. He didn't need to be saved from His sins, and He certainly didn't deserve the treatment He received on earth.

Here's a prayer that may be helpful to pray every morning: "I am the servant of all. No task is too small or insignificant for me to do for Christ. No task is too big for me to do for Christ. He gave His all, so today, I'll give mine."

**This is why we serve.**

## DAY 7

Matthew 6:25-34, James 2:14-19, Hebrews 11:1

### JUST DO IT!

With every step you take in following Christ, there's going to be intimidation by the enemy and some amount of fear related. Here's our advice: Just do it. Step out in faith and trust that you will have everything you need when you put God first. He never fails. He is consistent even when the world is not. He is consistent even when we are not. Put His cares first and watch what happens in your life - you'll experience joy and peace in a way you never have before. You'll begin to feel purpose and meaning behind the things you do every day.

This is what God does.

This is who He is.

**This is why we serve.**