

DAILY QUIET TIME GUIDE

BREVARD COMMUNITY CHURCH

DEEP AND WIDE, WEEK 2

DEVOTIONAL ADAPTED FROM: AUTHENTIC WITNESSING IN TODAY'S WORLD



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

Mark 2:17

What is a Witness?

Every week people are throwing parties for the lost at churches all across the world. Staff and volunteers alike plan and prep for Sunday mornings with such enthusiasm and attention to detail as any celebration party. But what if we threw these parties and no one ever came but those who are saved? What would be the point of throwing a party if the guests of honor weren't there?

In Mark 2, Jesus explains why He came to Earth. Jesus didn't come so He could hang out with the spiritually stable or prominent religious leaders. He came so He could get into the messy business of compassion and serving the down and out. Jesus came to relate to the broken, sick and lost, and to lead them to eternity.

We are being challenged as believers to do the same as Jesus. Our mission on Earth is to love God through loving others. That means we need to be a witness for Christ. We need to look for opportunities to meet unbelievers, build relationships with them, and share what Jesus did in His own mission on Earth.

DAY 2

Acts 1:8, Matthew 5:14-16, Acts 4:20

3 Characteristics of a Witness

There are certain characteristics that identify a witness for Christ. Let's take a look at what they are and see if you identify with any of them.

1. We are called to be a witness.

Acts 1:8 states that the act of witnessing is inevitable. Once we have accepted Christ as Lord, we will be filled with the Holy Spirit and by the Holy Spirit we have the ability to be a witness. First and foremost, we are called to be a witness.

2. We should live out our faith so that people see Christ in us.

In the Message translation of Matthew 5, we get this beautiful illustration of the way we should be representing Christ. A witness is something we naturally are as we live out our life for Jesus; our love and commitment should shine forth in order to point people to God. Living our lives so that others see Christ in us is essential. If we only tell people about God and neglect to show them a glimpse of Him within ourselves, we only have empty words.

3. We must speak about Him.

In Acts 4, we are instructed to be verbal about who Jesus is. One commentator wrote, "There has to be a verbal witness because there cannot be communication of important convictions without language. We must use words because our faith must be something vastly greater than ourselves. We make a witness by telling not who we are but whose we are."

If you want to be an effective and authentic witness for Christ, you must both live out your faith in action and express how good God is. Start with that and God will use you to reach others.

DAY 3

Acts 22:15

Your Testimony is Key

The term witness, in a legal setting and when commonly referenced, is defined as one who can give a firsthand account of something seen, heard, or experienced. At the core, a witness is someone who can represent and speak to something they have experienced first-hand. When a witness is in court, they tell everyone in the room what they know and it stands as a truth to the circumstance. We are called to do the same in our walk with Christ.

Your testimony and own experience with Christ are one of the most powerful tools in sharing the Gospel. It's personal to you, which will make it more meaningful to others. When you share your personal experiences, you are most authentic to an unbeliever. Your struggle is relatable because we all understand struggle. We can all relate to the feeling of hope. What you have overcome

through the power of Christ is hope for another and sharing how Jesus did that for you is an opportunity to soften someone's heart. God does the work but He will use your story to minister to another.

There is nothing like vulnerability and transparency to let a skeptical world know you are authentic. And it's that authenticity that will peak their interest and allow them to open up to hearing about who Jesus is.

Share what God has done in your life and let that intimate experience be a connection to telling people about Him.

DAY 4

Ephesians 5:18, Colossians 3:16

Spiritual Preparation

When seeking to be a witness for Christ, it's important you are spiritually prepared for whoever and whatever God places in your life. Let's take a moment to spiritually prepare ourselves for our mission.

It is vital as we go into any ministry opportunity that we be rejuvenated with the Spirit, which we received at salvation. Maintaining energy comes through spiritual disciplines of prayer and reading the Word. When we've neglected to pray or read because of "busyness" we feel drained and distant from God. It's important we pray and study Scripture each day so we'll be ready and equipped for the people God places in our path.

Ephesians 5 says that we are to be filled with the Spirit. Colossians 3 serves as a parallel by stating the Word must dwell among us. Refresh yourself through times of devotion in the presence of God. Pray and spend time in the Word. Allow God to speak to you through the scriptures by being quiet and opening up your mind and your heart to His message.

Along with prayer and study, pray for opportunities to meet people who need Christ. Pray for open doors to share your testimony with others. If you ask God for these occasions, He will provide them.

DAY 5

Romans 12:9-21

Practical Application

Practically speaking, you must do something to be a witness, correct? We've identified a few things you can do in previous days and the marks of a true Christian highlighted in Romans 12 provides further insight. If you want to be an authentic witness for Christ in today's world, keep the following in mind.

1. Start with serving.

Make serving a priority so you can let others know they are loved. Even if you are afraid you can't relate to others who are different from you, be authentic, be real. Being authentic opens the door to genuine relationships and unique opportunities to share your faith. Don't walk around pointing out how others have missed the mark, instead interact with them and look for opportunities to share about God.

2. Be authentic.

Just be yourself. Don't try to be extremely spiritual or use deep theological words, instead, share your story and let the person whom you are speaking with, know you care about them.

3. Ask questions and listen.

Use the opportunities you have in witnessing to really engage in conversation. Start with empathizing. Romans 12:15 says, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." Let the person know you are there and care about what they are saying.

Try to dig a little deeper by asking questions regarding their life and story. Once asked, let them talk without interruption and really listen to what they have to say. It's through conversation that you can open up to share your own story and talk about the goodness of God. Don't be afraid to use Bible verses and talk about what Christ did on the cross. Use the opportunity of conversation to lead people to Jesus.

Being an effective witness is about living your life in a way that others will want to know more about the God you serve. Witnessing involves telling people about Christ, sharing your testimony, and personally inviting people to church.