

A Closer Walk

This special spiritual disciplines folder is being used as part of the Foundations in Church Renewal Course in the Springs of Living Water Academy in Church renewal. This way pastors and church leaders will not only learn the content of renewal but experience renewal.

The desire of this folder entitled “A Closer Walk” is to help us in our spiritual lives to grow closer to Jesus. We will be exploring time honored practices which lead us to place ourselves before God so God can work in and through our lives. Our desire is for a closer walk with Jesus.

This theme of “A Closer Walk” comes forth from our Brethren heritage and beyond. The desire of early Brethren was to ponder the scriptures and to use them as a pattern for faith and action. What a worthy goal for today!

In this folder there is a “discipline of the week” with suggested Sunday messages followed by a daily reading from scripture on that discipline. All this sets the stage for spiritual renewal personally and in our congregation.

Each day you can go to your special “prayer place” prepared ahead of time. Have a Bible, perhaps a candle, and a journal readied along with this folder and the Celebration of Discipline book. Five things can be done:

Possible prayer pattern

- Release all cares and center on God’s love for you and the Good News.
- Read the text of the day. Re-read in a slow meditative manner. Pause after each word or phrase and take in its meaning. Meditate on it for today.
- Pray prayers of intention asking God to help you follow that text this day. Voice prayers of thanksgiving or repentance or intercession. (class)
- Read a portion of Celebration of Discipline on this discipline.
- Practice a time of silence, listening to God speaking to you.

Then live this day to its fullest letting the spiritual practices in all of their dimensions give shape to your life in Christ. See how these practices weave in among the foundation course, and how doing this together as a group strengthens us as individuals and as a community of believers.

Journal

March 3, 2013 – The Discipline of Study

Message: “Study to Show Thyself Approved” – 2 Timothy 3:16, 17

- Monday:* The source of truth / James 1:5; Hebrews 4:11-13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Tuesday:* What to study / Philippians 4:8-9; Colossians 3:1-17
- Wednesday:* The value of study / Luke 10:38-42
- Thursday:* Active study / Ezra 7:10; James 1:19-25
- Friday:* Study in the evangelistic enterprise / Acts 17:1-3; 17:10-12; 19:8-10
- Saturday:* The study of a nonverbal book / Proverbs 24:30-34
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Green Copy – to keep

Section II: Outward Disciplines

March 10, 2013 – The Discipline of Simplicity

Message: “Tis A Gift to Be Simple” – Matthew 6:25-33

- Monday:* Simplicity as trust / Matthew 6:25-34
- Tuesday:* Simplicity as obedience / Genesis 15
- Wednesday:* The generosity of simplicity / Leviticus 25:8-12
- Thursday:* Simplicity in speech / Matthew 5:33-37; James 5:12
- Friday:* Simplicity and justice / Amos 5:11-15; 24; Luke 4:16-21
- Saturday:* The freedom from covetousness / Luke 12:13-34
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March 17, 2013 – The Discipline of Solitude

Message: “Alone With God” – Matthew 6:5-6; 9:35-38

- Monday:* Prayer and solitude / Matthew 6:5-6; Luke 5:16
- Tuesday:* The insights of solitude / Psalm 8
- Ash Wednesday:* “The dark night of the soul” / Jeremiah 20:7-18
- Thursday:* The solitude of the garden / Matthew 26:36-46
- Friday:* The solitude of the cross / Matthew 27:32-50
- Saturday:* The compassion that comes from solitude / Matthew 9:35-38; 23:37
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March 24, 2013 - PALM SUNDAY –The Discipline of Submission
Message: “The Cross Life” – Philippians 2:1-11

- Monday:* The example of Christ / Philippians 2:1-11
Tuesday: The example of Abraham / Genesis 22:1-19
Wednesday: The example of Paul / Galatians 2:19-21
Thursday: Submission in the marketplace / Matthew 5:38-48
Friday: Submission in the family / Ephesians 5:21-6:9; 1 Peter 3:1-9
Saturday: Submission with reference to the state / Romans 13:1-10,
Acts 4:13-20; 5:27-29; 16:35-39
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March 31, 2013 – EASTER – The Discipline of Service
Message: “The Towel Life” – John 13:14, 15

- Monday:* The sign of service / John 13:1-17
Tuesday: The commitment of service / Exodus 21:2; 21:5-6;
1 Corinthians 9:19
Wednesday: The attitude of service / Colossians 3:23-25
Thursday: Service in the Christian fellowship / Romans 12:9-13
Friday: The ministry of small things / Matthew 25:31-39
Saturday: Service exemplified / Luke 10:29-37
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Section III: The Corporate Disciplines

April 7, 2013 – The Discipline of Confession

Message: “The Lost Discipline” – James 5:16; 1 John 1:9

- Monday:* The promise of forgiveness / Jeremiah 31:34; Matthew 26:28;
Ephesians 1:7
Tuesday: The assurance of forgiveness / 1 John 1:5-10
Wednesday: Jesus Christ, our Adequate Savior, Mediator, and Advocate / 2
Corinthians 6:21; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 2:1
Thursday: A parable of confession / Luke 15:11-24
Friday: Authority and forgiveness / Matthew 16:19; 18:18; John 20:23
Saturday: The ministry of the Christian Fellowship / James 5:13-16
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April 14, 2013 – The Discipline of Worship

Message: “When You Worship: Five Elements of Christian Worship” – Isaiah 6:1-8

- Monday:* Communion: the essence of worship / John 6:52-58; 6:63
Tuesday: The life of worship / Ephesians 5:18-20; Colossians 3:16-17
Wednesday: The Lord high and lifted up / Isaiah 6:1-8
Thursday: Sing to the Lord / Psalm 96
Friday: Worship of all creation / Psalm 148
Saturday: Worthy is the Lamb / Revelation 5:6-14
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April 21, 2013 - The Discipline of Guidance

Message: “Led by God” – Acts 15:28

- Monday:* The guidance of divine Providence / Genesis 24:1-21
Tuesday: The guidance of Justice and obedience / Isaiah 1:17; 18-20
Wednesday: Led into all truth / Proverbs 3:5-6; John 14:6, 16:13; Acts 10:1-35
Thursday: Closed doors, open doors / Acts 16:6-10; 2 Corinthians 2:12
Friday: Listening or resisting? / Acts 21:8-14
Saturday: The family likeness / Romans 8:14; 28-30
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April 28, 2013 – The Discipline of Celebration

Message: “Joy” – Galatians 5:22

- Monday:* The joy of the Lord / 2 Samuel 6:12-19
Tuesday: Bless the Lord / Psalm 103
Wednesday: Praise the Lord / Psalm 150
Thursday: Hosanna! / Luke 19:35-40; John 12:12-19
Friday: Walking and leaping and praising God / Acts 3:1-10
Saturday: Hallelujah! / Revelation 19:1-8

Section I: Inward Disciplines

February 10, 2013 – The Discipline of Meditation

Message: “Keeping Our Mind on Christ...So That We May Not Lose Heart” – Psalm 1:2; Psalm 19:14; Hebrews 12:2, 3

- Monday:* The friendship of meditation / Exodus 33:11
Tuesday: The terror of meditation / Exodus 20:18-19
Wednesday: The object of meditation / Psalm 1:1-3
Thursday: The comfort of meditation / 1 Kings 19:9-18
Friday: The insights of meditation / Acts 10:9-20
Saturday: The ecstasy of meditation / 2 Corinthians 12:1-4
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February 17, 2013 – The Discipline of Prayer

Message: “Lord, Teach Us to Pray” – Mark 1:35; Luke 11:1; Luke 11:2-13, 1 Thessalonians 5:17

- Monday:* The prayer of worship / Psalm 103
Tuesday: The prayer of repentance / Psalm 5
Wednesday: The prayer of thanksgiving / Psalm 150
Thursday: The prayer of guidance / Matthew 26:36-46
Friday: The prayer of faith / James 5:13-18
Saturday: The prayer of command / Mark 9:14-29
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February 24, 2013 – The Discipline of Fasting

Message: “Fasting is Feasting” – John 4:32, 34; 2 Corinthians 11:27; Acts 13:2, 3

- Monday:* God’s chosen fast / Isaiah 58:1-7
Tuesday: A partial fast / Daniel 10:1-14
Wednesday: A normal fast / Nehemiah 1:4-11
Thursday: An absolute fast / Esther 4:12-17
Friday: The inauguration of the gentile mission / Acts 13:1-3
Saturday: The appointment of elders in the churches / Acts 14:19-23
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Journal

© David S. Young, This spiritual disciplines folder was especially adapted for use with the first Springs Academy for Pastors and Church Leaders on Christmas Eve, 2012 with the addition of one week on chapter 1 of Celebration of Discipline. This practice of disciplines will go with the Foundations Course in Church Renewal.

Found in *Springs of Living Water, Christ-Centered Church Renewal*, (Scottsdale: Herald Press, 2008), Appendix 10, pp. 348-363 in English and Spanish with permission to copy. Daily Scripture texts are taken from the Study Guide to Celebration of Discipline by Richard J. Foster.

A CLOSER WALK
A Special Journey
For the First Springs Academy



SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER!
The Springs Academy
February 9 - May 4, 2013

(Personal Copy)

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With renewal being a matter of the heart, this spiritual disciplines folder is designed for pastors and church leaders in order to make the Foundations Class both a faith experience as well one of growing in depth in knowledge of church renewal.

The assumption is the two are integrally wedded. So this insert is written as a path of disciplined grace in order to grow in the image of Jesus Christ as we would do our ministry so that all renewal will reflect His image in a Christ-centered church.

Let us be in prayer for one another as we seek to be faithful and receive the gift of Jesus. Circle one you feel led to take up.

1. Enter into a daily reading of the texts and attempt to have the daily text influence your Christian walk that day in practice.
2. Daily read Celebration of Discipline in a meditative manner.
3. Daily be in prayer for other members of the class.
4. Enter into the course materials as a spiritual experience where you are attempting to model this course in your ministry.
5. Attempt to use spiritual discernment in your decision making.
6. Enter into one of the twelve disciplines in more depth, concentrating on it this season of 12 weeks, such as the discipline of fasting either from food or some habit you wish to let go of.
7. Other discipline of God's leading _____

I am asking God's help as I make this commitment.

Name: _____

(Commitment Copy)

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