

WAYS

DEVOTIONAL

What are the Ways?

From reflecting on Scripture and on lives lived with God, FPCM's Staff and Session have distilled 25 Ways that God calls us to live our faith in community and in devotion to Him.

These Ways are meant to help us create an "atmosphere thick with love," and a culture where God's character is evident in all we do. In short, they show who we aim to be.

How do I Devote?

1. Pick your Best Time and Space

Give God your best time, not your leftovers. Look for a time in your day when you are alert and uninterrupted. It can be helpful to find a location which feels prayerful to you.

2. Be Attentive to Yourself

Before you Devote, be attentive to your own heart and mind. Are you feeling preoccupied... disappointed... resentful? Your personal state will impact your prayer life. Make it known to God.

3. Be Attentive to God

This is your time with God. It is personal and relational. Jesus is listening and the Spirit is present with you. Be with God in this time. Even in silence you can know and enjoy His presence.

4. Read. Think. Pray.

Devoting yourself to God is simple. **Read** scripture, **Think** about what it means and means to you, and **Pray** about it. This can be a time to engage your heart and mind toward God's calling. Don't rush it. Savor your time in the word and in prayer with God.

5. Live it Out

Now do something about it.

Rest and Reflect

Each Sunday is an opportunity to Rest with God and Reflect on His presence and power in the previous week and how you will respond in the next.

Sabbath can be a powerful force in your life. Take a break and recline into God's grace. Let work take a back seat to joy and peace. Remember all that God has done for you this week. *God* is in control.



JOIN *Hands*

Sunday

Work as a team. Collaborate with each other, our professional staff, our lay leaders, and our congregants to find the best solutions.

Collaboration lightens the load, generates better ideas than individuals working alone, and unleashes the gifts God has given us all.

Remember to Rest and Reflect on God's goodness and how you can *Join Hands* this week.



THEN THE LORD
GOD SAID,
“IT IS NOT
GOOD THAT THE
MAN SHOULD BE
ALONE; I WILL
MAKE HIM A
HELPER AS HIS
PARTNER.”
GENESIS 2:18

Monday

READ: Genesis 2:15-20

THINK: Right at the beginning of the Bible, we see that it is not good for humans to go it alone. We are made in the image of God, and God is triune. At the core, God is not a lone wolf but a three person community: Father, Son, and Spirit living in perfect harmony since before time began. When you *Join Hands*, you reflect who God is and live as God intended.

PRAY: the Spirit would draw “suitable helpers” into your life.

Join Hands today.



- IRON SHARPENS IRON, -

AND ONE MAN SHARPENS ANOTHER. PROVERBS 27:17

Tuesday

READ: Proverbs 27:17

THINK: We have all felt this happen. When we gather around faithful people, we become more faithful. When we are challenged by others ideas, we become wiser. When we work alongside missionally-minded Christians, we become better servants. *Join Hands* because when you do, you will find that you grow.

PRAY: God would show you who you can sharpen and who can sharpen you.

Join Hands today.



MALKIJAH SON OF HARIM AND HASSHUB
SON OF PAHATH-MOAB REBUILT
ANOTHER SECTION THAT INCLUDED
THE TOWER OF FURNACES.
WORKING NEXT TO HIM WAS
SHALLUM SON OF HALLOHESH,
MAYOR OF THE OTHER HALF-DISTRICT OF
JERUSALEM, ALONG
WITH HIS DAUGHTERS.

NEHEMIAH 3:11-12

Wednesday

READ: Nehemiah 3

THINK: You probably didn't read that whole thing, but you probably noticed how many people were working on rebuilding the wall together. The city was in danger and the only way forward was together. One group after another worked together in doing what needed to be done. When you *Join Hands*, you will find impossibly large tasks become doable.

PRAY: that the Spirit would create willingness in us for the work ahead.

Join Hands today.



YOU ARE THE

Light of the world.

A CITY SITUATED ON A HILL CANNOT
BE HIDDEN. MATTHEW 5:14

Thursday

READ: Matthew 5:13-16

THINK: This verse says “y’all.” You are not the light of the world. We are. It is not about the world seeing your good deeds and how great you are, but *our* good deeds being seen so people glorify God. Read it again and replace you with y’all. That “y’all” is the Church. It is the body of Jesus actively being His presence in the world. *Join Hands* to join Jesus in being the Light of the world.

PRAY: that our good works would shine to our community.

Join Hands today.

A photograph of a dark, arched tunnel with graffiti on the walls. A light source at the far end creates a bright glow. The text "AND LET US" is arched over the top of the tunnel.

AND LET US

CONSIDER HOW TO
PROVOKE
ONE ANOTHER
TO LOVE AND
GOOD DEEDS,
HEBREWS 10:24

Friday

READ: Hebrews 10:19-25

THINK: *Joining Hands* isn't easy. There is a reason the NRSV uses the word provoke. It would always be easier to stay the same, gather the same people, and do the same thing; but easier isn't better. When you *Join Hands*, sometimes you may feel provoked, pushed, or pulled. *Join Hands* anyway and find strength in being spurred on by a community who loves and cares for you.

PRAY: that fellow Christians would provoke you towards good works.

Join Hands today.



THAT THERE BE

NO

DIVISIONS AMONG YOU,
BUT THAT YOU BE PERFECTLY
UNITED IN MIND AND THOUGHT.
I CORINTHIANS 1:10

Saturday

READ: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

THINK: Here is the goal: being perfectly united so that as one body we can operate with one mind, the mind of Christ. When we *Join Hands*, we will see things differently and sometimes want different things. What unites us, though, is greater than what divides us. Lean into the work of the Spirit in us, and *Join Hands* with faithful believers who are seeking to follow God.

PRAY: that God would renew our minds to be more like Jesus.

Join Hands today.