

# Experiencing the Word of Life



## Teacher's Guide

### Materials

Bibles; pencils; *Steps to Christ*; *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2; concordances; colored markers or pencils; paper; bowl; flip-chart/chalkboard/whiteboard and appropriate markers

### Surveying the Source

Deut. 4:1–4; 1 Cor. 15:1–8; 1 John 1:1–5; Rev. 19:13.

### Plotting the Course

#### The students will:

- ▶ Plan their own individual private devotional time.
- ▶ Share the results of their personal

devotional time.

- ▶ Understand how devotional time affects daily life.

### Preparing to Lead

“The lesson that in helping others we ourselves receive help must be urged upon young believers continually, by precept and example, that in their Christian experience they may gain the best results. Let the desponding ones, those disposed to think that the way to eternal life is trying and difficult, go to work to help others. Such efforts, united with prayer for divine light, will cause their own hearts

to throb with the quickening influence of the grace of God, their own affections to glow with more divine fervor. Their whole Christian life will be more of a reality, more earnest, more prayerful. . . . The testimonies borne by them in the Sabbath services will be filled with power. With joy they will bear witness to the preciousness of the experience they have gained in working for others.”\*

### Getting Started

**A.** *Read the following to your class:* “In her devotions that morning, Debra turned to Isaiah. One promise she had underlined jumped out at her. [Read Isaiah 49:16 to the class.] Later, she read the following in *The Ministry of Healing*, page 482: ‘In the darkest days, when appearances seem most forbidding, have faith in God. . . . He is able and willing to bestow upon His servants all the help they need. He will give them the wisdom which their varied necessities demand.’

“That afternoon she met up with Linda. Linda felt like her world was caving in. So Debra copied the texts she had read in the morning, wrote a brief note with them, and when Linda wasn’t looking, put them in an obvious place in Linda’s

notebook. Linda read the note, grateful for a friend who showed compassion, and thankful for a God who looks after her and cares, even about the small things in life.”

*Ask and discuss:* “How have any of you experienced the Word of God in a dramatic way?”

**B.** Divide the class into small groups. Write each of the following activities on pieces of paper, and put them in a bowl: Bible study, prayer walking, memorizing Scripture, reading, journaling. Each group will draw a paper, use a concordance to find a Bible verse to support the idea, draw a picture illustrating it (ask them to color it or use colored markers or pencils), and read a Bible verse support-

ing it. Have each group share their work with the class. These drawings and Bible

verses may be used to make a bulletin board for the church.

## Delving Into the Word

**A.** The following questions may be assigned to small groups or used from the front as discussion questions. Have the students look up the answers: ●When should we have our devotions? Gen. 24:63; Ps. 5:3; Ps. 63:1; ●Where should we have our devotions? Isa. 56:7; Matt. 6:5, 6; Matt. 14:23; Mark 1:35; Acts 12:12; 1 Tim. 2:8. ●In what ways can we vary our devotions? *Steps to Christ*, p. 103; Ps. 46:10; Luke 6:12; 1 Tim. 4:15 (NKJV); ●In what ways can we share our experience in God’s Word with others?

Isa. 58:5–14; Zech. 8:16; Mark 5:19; 1 Pet. 3:15.

**B.** On a flipchart, draw a chart with two columns. Label the first column Who Had Devotions? Label the second column How Did They Have Devotions? Then have the class look up the following verses to find information to fill in both columns: ●1 Sam. 10:9–16; ●12:20–23; ●Ps. 5:1, 3; ●Dan. 6:10; ●Mark 1:35; ●Luke 2:36, 37; ●Luke 6:12; ●Luke 9:28, 29; ●Acts 10:9; ●Acts 10:30, 31; ●1 Thess. 3:1–10.

## Discussing the Ideas

1. How can a vibrant devotional life change your view of life?
2. Share what you would like to do during your time with God.
3. How can your devotional time be both a time of giving and of receiving?
4. In what ways can a positive devotional life affect our thoughts of others, and others thoughts of us?
5. How might Jesus have devotions if

He were living in our modern age?

6. How can family worship fit into the devotional experience? Should family worship be our only devotional time?

7. Think of ways your church will grow when its members are applying a vibrant, daily devotional time to their life.

8. Explain the difference between righteousness by works and being transformed by the Word of God.

## Closing the Activity

*Say:* “Our devotions are a private matter between us and God. However, the results of being with God are visible to all. How is it between you and God? Is your devotional life an important part of your day? Are you experiencing His Word? By sharing what we have learned, our experience will grow and we will

have the capacity to learn more. My prayer is that each of you will choose to make a daily appointment with Jesus.”

Give each student a copy of the activity on page 32. Have them do as much of it as they can in the remaining time. Encourage them to complete it during the Sabbath afternoon hours.

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*\*My Life Today*, p. 234.

## Devotions in the Bible

Use the following verses to find information to fill in the blanks.  
 1 Samuel 12:23; Psalm 5:3; Daniel 6:10; Mark 1:35; Luke 2:36, 37; Luke 6:12;  
 Luke 9:28, 29; Acts 10:9; Acts 10:30, 31; 1 Thessalonians 3:10

Who had devotions?	How did they have devotions?
	Fasting, prayed
Jesus	
	Jesus took friends to the mountains to pray
Daniel	
	Prayed for others
Paul	
	Rose a great while before day and departed into a solitary place and prayed
Anna	
	Speaking to God in the morning and looking up
Peter	