

Journal Assignment Instructions

Scripture Devotion/Prayer Journal - In conjunction with the Scripture reading, each student should use the reading as a devotional practice. This ideally includes listening and prayer. Each student will write a weekly journal of their devotional and prayer time from the Scripture reading. Each weekly entry will record what God is speaking from the Bible, and how the student is responding in prayer and obedience.

The purpose of this assignment (and the basis on which it will be graded) is 1) to connect with God in a devotional/worshipful/prayerful manner (going beyond just academic information to personal commitment/transformation) 2) doing so through the Scripture readings (clearly focusing on the Scriptural teaching) and 3) clearly demonstrating that these first two things have taken place.

This assignment is purposely left somewhat vague so that you have freedom to process your devotional reading in a way that works best for you.

The devotional journal must be connected with your Assigned New Testament Reading (this is non-negotiable). As you read from the New Testament, let it be a devotional experience. Let God speak with you through the text. Think about what it was saying to the first people who heard it, and how that applies to your life. Respond in appropriate ways: prayer, worship, repentance and change.

Then, somehow, record your devotional experience. Don't write for the instructor's sake, but rather for your own sake- to remind you what God is doing through the Word; to help you process and understand what God is doing; to help you plan and keep yourself accountable to your long range responses.

There are many possible forms that this can take. Here is a description of a few, just to get you started. But be free to choose the way you do it. You could write like a news report – just describe the facts of what happened: “This is what I read. This is what God was doing. This is how I responded. etc.” You could write like a personal confession/communication to God (like Augustine's Confession) – write as if you are speaking directly to God about the experience: “Thank You that you have told me _____”, “I pray _____”, “I will do _____. etc.” You could write it like a diary or letter to yourself about the experience.

There are a number of ways you could write it out. The form is not as important as the fact that you are reading the New Testament, not just as an assignment for information, but as a way to meet with and know God. The journal is just a way to help you keep this in mind and to help keep you accountable to do this.

Do this assignment first for your own sake – for the health and growth of your soul.

Then you may need to edit down all that you are experiencing. You will need to choose what you report for the journal and what you don't. Please keep each weekly entry at approximately ½ to 1 page in length.

Due Weekly, Thursdays at 8:00am.

Journal Assignment Grading Rubric

	“A” quality	“B” quality	“C” quality	“D” quality	“F” quality
Presentation: 5 pts. (ESL students may be given more grace in this category.)	(4-5 pts.) No spelling or grammatical mistakes. Neat and properly formatted	(3-4 pts.) Few spelling and/or grammatical mistakes. Fairly neat and properly formatted.	(2-3 pts.) Contains spelling and grammatical mistakes. Lacks neatness and proper format.	(1-2 pts.) Significant spelling and/or grammatical mistakes. Not neat or properly formatted.	(0-1 pt.) Below acceptable college level work. Illegible or unreadable.
Interaction with NT: 20 pts.	(18-20 pts.) Significant evidence of interaction with the NT passage. Demonstrates responsible hermeneutics and connection with the authors meaning.	(16-18 pts.) Evidence of interaction with the NT passage. Demonstrates understanding of the author’s meaning. Not hermeneutically irresponsible.	(14-16 pts.) Some evidence of interaction with NT passage. Some misunderstanding of the author’s meaning or irresponsible hermeneutics.	(11-14 pts.) Little evidence of interaction with NT passage. Little thought given to the NT passage. Response is not connected with or dramatically misunderstands the author’s meaning.	(0-10 pts.) No evidence of interaction with NT passage. Response is unconnected with NT passage.
Interaction with God: 20 pts.	(18-20 pts.) Significant evidence of intentional interaction with God through the reading and devotional response. Pursuit of and heartfelt response to God’s moving and leading.	(16-18 pts.) Evidence of interaction with God through devotional response. Openness and response to God’s moving and leading	(14-16 pts.) Some evidence of interaction with God. Some sense of awareness of God’s moving and leading.	(11-14 pts.) Little evidence of interaction with God. Done as a purely academic exercise without sense of God’s moving and leading.	(0-10 pts.) No evidence of interaction with God. Done as a purely academic exercise without care for God’s moving and leading.
Response and Application: 20 pts.	(18-20 pts.) Significant evidence of passionate, thoughtful response and application that is closely connected to both the NT passage and the student’s experience of God.	(16-18 pts.) Evidence of thoughtful response and application that is appropriate to both the NT passage and the student’s experience of God.	(14-16 pts.) Some evidence of response and application that is related to either the NT passage of the student’s experience of God.	(11-14 pts.) Little evidence of response or application. Little or no connection with the NT passage or the student’s experience of God.	(0-10 pts.) No evidence of personal response or attempt to make application to the student’s life.
Heartfelt Effort and Diligence: 20 pts.	(18-20 pts.) Significant evidence that the student has taken the assignment seriously and approached it with passion and diligence.	(16-18 pts.) Evidence that the student has taken the assignment seriously and done diligent work.	(14-16 pts.) Some evidence of attempting to give diligence to the assignment. Assignment is completed	(11-14 pts.) Little evidence of taking the assignment seriously. Assignment is incomplete or gives evidence that it was thoughtlessly done at the last minute.	(0-10 pts.) No evidence of diligence. Assignment is incomplete and shows the minimal effort, if any.
Overall Impression: 15 pts.	(18-20 pts.) Student has surpassed the requirements of the assignment and given extra effort and superior quality work.	(16-18 pts.) Student has fulfilled all the requirements of the assignment and produced quality work.	(14-16) Student has completed the assignment, but not all requirements were successfully fulfilled.	(11-14 pts.) Student has fallen short of the assignment requirements. The assignment is incomplete or significantly lacking in quality.	(0-10 pts.) Student has not met the assignment requirements. The assignment is below passing standards for college level work.
Total Points	/100				
Late Deduction	-10% /day				
Final Grade	/100				