

Saturday—Extending Compassion

I will respond to the social needs of my neighborhood through my participation in a local, hands-on, face-to-face, compassionate ministry to people in need at least four times a year with my group.

1st Office

*I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' **Matthew 25:40 (NIV)***

A Prayer: Compassionate and caring Father—you've shown me the depth of your concern for those in need through your Son Jesus Christ who cared for the sick, the hungry, and the poor. Through your Spirit, open the eyes of my heart that I may see Jesus in the needy and be moved to do for them what Jesus did. Amen.

2nd Office

*For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. **2 Corinthians 4:5 (NIV)***

A Prayer: Almighty God—too often I am preoccupied with myself and my own needs. Forgive me, and fill me with your Spirit so that I may serve my Lord Jesus Christ by being a servant to others. Let my practical deeds of meeting others' needs be a testimony to your loving compassion and your desire for justice in your world. May your kingdom come in and through me. Amen.

International Baptist Church Berlin Scott Corwin, Ph.D., Pastor

Rothenburgstrasse 12a-13
12165 Berlin (Steglitz)
Church Office: (030) 8020 2346
Pastor's Study: (030) 7621 8155

"Get Connected" Developing Biblical Community Through SERVICE



This daily meditation and prayer guide explores the **seven functions of biblical community** using the ancient **practice of "the Daily Office,"** a time to slow down, pause, and focus on God's presence.



This **practice** offers you a structure for renewing your **mind**, changing your **perspective**, and deepening your **convictions** on your journey of becoming a **fully-developing disciple** of Jesus.



Twice a day **enter** into your "Office," **meditate** on the Scriptures, and **listen** to the Spirit allowing his truths to soak into the depths of your being and to change your **character** and your **conduct**.



Pray the suggested prayer...or pray your own prayer...as you set your own pace for developing the **spiritual maturity** of a fully devoted **apprentice** of Jesus Christ through faith-filled **introspection**.



Sunday—Spiritual Formation

I will assess regularly my own personal development as a disciple of Jesus Christ, affirm my strengths and confess my struggles to my group, and set personal goals for my growth in Christ.

1st Office

*Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." **Luke 9:23 (NIV)***

*And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. **Luke 14:27 (NIV)***

A Prayer: O Lord, by faith I choose to die to myself and to dedicate myself to following you. Teach me to obey everything you have commanded through your words and through your life. May your death and resurrection be my life. May your life be mine. Amen.

2nd Office

*...so that the body may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. **Ephesians 4:12-13 (NIV)***

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. **Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)***

A Prayer: "Lord God—Father, Son, and Spirit, through your mercy and grace grow me to the maturity that is the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Fill me with your Spirit that I may bear your fruit—the virtues and character of qualities of Jesus—in my attitude, actions, and relationships with others. Amen."

Monday—Evangelism

I will invest my life in and—as God leads—introduce to Jesus at least three of my family, friends, and/or neighbors that are non-believers. I commit to praying with my group for their spiritual, emotional, relational, and physical needs monthly.

1st Office

*"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." **Matthew 4:19 (NIV)***

*A Prayer: O God, you have rescued me through your Son, Jesus Christ. As I closely follow him, use me as a fisher of men to help rescue others from their sin and draw them into a personal love relationship with my Lord Jesus Christ. Deepen my love and concern for non-believers, and through your Spirit enable me to **invest** my life in loving them, to **invite** them to be a part of my life, and to **introduce** them to Jesus. Amen.*

2nd Office

*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. **Romans 1:16 (NIV)***



A Prayer: Almighty Father, who through the good news of Jesus Christ has made me your child: strengthen my faith and hope in your salvation work in my life so that your gospel power may flow through the testimony of my life. May the words of my mouth, the attitudes of my heart, and the deeds of my life proclaim the depths of your love, the extent of your mercy, and the heights of your hope. Energize me with your Holy Spirit so that I may speak and live a bold witness for you. Amen.

Let my cry come before you, O Lord; give me understanding according to your word. Ps 119:169

Tuesday—Recreation

I will share life with my group through planned and spontaneous times of talking, playing, eating, and celebrating together. I will invite non-believers and unconnected believers to these recreational activities to help me extend my connections.

1st Office

*I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. **John 10:10 (NIV)***

*I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **John 15:11 (NIV)***

A Prayer: Eternal God, you have given me joy and delight through life in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him I have discovered life overflowing with your goodness. May your goodness and your joy be full in me, and I will shout for joy and sing of your goodness among your people. Amen.

2nd Office

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! **Philippians 4:4 (NIV)**



Out of the depths, I cry to you, O Lord. Psalm 130:1

A Prayer: Rejoicing King, I take pleasure in your presence and find joy in my obedience to your will. I know happiness through the people and the things you have made. Fill me with your Spirit of carefree joy that spills over into celebration. Give me rewarding times of joy-filled fellowship with others, so that we might find strength for our life together in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday—Volunteerism

I will commit to the Body of Christ at IBCB through weekly prayer and participation in worship as well as through involvement in ministries such as preschool, children, youth, ushers, and music as God gifts and guides.

1st Office

*I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. **John 17:23 (NIV)***

A Prayer: Magnificent God, you have loved your Son and he has loved me fully. Through Jesus Christ I have been made your child and you have made me a part of your family. Protect your family, the Body of Christ at IBCB, by filling me with your love for her members and by making me an ambassador of unity in her mission through the power of your Spirit. Amen.

2nd Office

*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household... **Ephesians 2:19 (NIV)***

*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. **1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)***

A Prayer: Heavenly Father, you have adopted me as your own, placed me in your household, granted me citizenship in your kingdom, and made me a part of your Body at IBCB. Show me the gifts of your Spirit that you have given me and the ministry to which you have called me in this family. Give me the humility and servant-heart of the Lord Jesus Christ as you use me to build up the Body of Christ at IBCB. Make us a healthy, growing, and reproducing body, I pray. Amen.

Thursday—International Mission

I will support monthly at least one IBCB international missions project through increased awareness, prayer, participation, and partnership.

1st Office

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." **Acts 1:8 (NIV)***

A Prayer: Sovereign Lord, the King of all the earth and the Ruler of all people—cleanse my heart of all sin and selfishness and fill me with the power of your Spirit's presence that I may be a witness to your grace...not only here in my neighborhood but also around the world. Use me—my time, my talents, and my treasures—to share the good news of your gospel to the ends of the earth. Amen.

2nd Office

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. **Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)***

A Prayer: Gracious God, you have given to me the task of becoming a "global disciple-maker" through sharing the gospel and showing obedience. I claim the promise of your presence and power asking that you would strengthen my faith-filled discipleship so that I can join you in your worldwide mission of grace. Move me to prayer. Motivate me to participate and to go. Make me a financial partner in your kingdom business through my giving. For the glory of your name and your kingdom, I pray. Amen.

Friday—Caring Relationships

I will care for my group through prayer and practical help. I will share openly my emotional, relational, physical, and financial needs and demonstrate my love through giving and receiving care.

1st Office

*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. **Mark 10:45 (NIV)***

*Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. **John 15:13 (NIV)***

A Prayer: Loving Father, you demonstrated the extent of your love for me through your Firstborn Son who became a servant and was crucified on my behalf. May I in eternal gratitude sacrificially serve your sons and daughters—my brothers and sisters in Christ—by being your agent in their time of need. Amen.

Second Office

*Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. **1 John 3:18 (NIV)***

A Prayer: Righteous God, soften my heart with compassion, and sensitize me to the needs of others. Strengthen my spirit with courage, and inspire me with creativity. I truly desire to love others, but find myself saying it and not showing it. I pray that you would turn my talk into truth and through your Spirit, into loving deeds. Amen.



"...you must now wash each other's feet." John 13:14