SCROLL

Scripture Engagement (SE) & Prayer

Both are:
- Interacting with God in a personal way.
- God at work in and among us through his Spirit.
- An invitation to enter into a posture of openness, expectancy and humility.

Some ways to strengthen elements of prayer in SE:
- Stopping during Bible studies to pray, especially when we get stuck in our conversation or sense that the passage is calling for an immediate response to God. Then continue sharing and stop again where appropriate instead of just ending in prayer.
- Q.I.R (Reflect) – include a phase of prayerful reflection in the Q.I.A approach to SE.
- Learn and introduce meditative ways of reading Scripture - that integrate silent reflection, prayerful response, staying with a word and listening to God speaking through it.
- Have symbols or objects as reminders e.g. an empty chair to symbolize God’s presence.

Some ways to strengthen elements of SE in prayer:
- Live with a passage for a season and let it shape our praying for that season.
- Integrate Bible study and prayer in our personal devotions, small groups, conferences so that each one is shaped by the other.
- Pray in all the ways modelled to us in Scripture so that we grow in how we engage with God.
- Connect prayer times in small group Bible studies with the passage studied, e.g. by asking, “How do you want us to pray for you in response to this passage?”

See also: www.scriptureengagement.ifesworld.org – particularly the section Resources – Formación Development, small group Bible studies and retreats.

Preparation. Prayer helps us enter into a relational posture and awareness of God’s presence.

Mirror: Our prayers reveal who we think God is; this leads us back to who he has revealed himself to be in Scripture.

Give up Control. We intentionally place our engagement with the Word in God’s hands and let his Spirit lead us.

Relational: In SE, we do not only want to talk about God, but with him.

Inspiration: When we are struggling with prayer, we can start with Scripture and allow it to lead us back into conversation with God.

Model: From Scripture show us how we can come to God in prayer e.g. lament, thanksgiving, praise, petition, silence.

Enlarges Concerns as Scripture opens up God’s big story and his passion for this world to us. Our perspective is widened and so are our prayers.

Reliance. We ask God to help us understand his Word and hear it in a fresh way.

Response in prayer to who God has revealed himself to be in Scripture. We do not pray to an unknown God.

Connect with what is on God’s heart: Through Scripture, we enter into his perspective and are invited to let this shape the content of our prayers.

Hope and Conviction that God hears and answers grow in us through the Word.

Grows/Inspires/Enriches Scripture Engagement in the following ways:
- Preparation.
- Mirror.
- Give up Control.
- Relational.

Grows/Inspires/Enriches Prayer in the following ways:
- Inspiration.
- Model.
- Enlarges Concerns.
- Reliance.
- Response.

Grow/Inspire/Enrich:
- Scripture Engagement in the following ways:
- Prayer in the following ways: