



**THE LIFE**  
PROJECT

## The Life Devotionals Guidelines 2019

### The Life devotionals should:

- Inspire and challenge readers to live passionately for God in the power of the Holy Spirit, continually submitting every aspect of their lives to Christ's rule;
- Motivate believers to participate as fully as possible in the mission Jesus has entrusted to his Church, thereby becoming multiplying disciples.
- Avoid being gender or age specific.

### As you prayerfully write your devotional, please adhere to the following guidelines:

#### Title:

- Grab your reader's attention and pique their interest.
- Keep it short — 6 words or less.
- Avoid using words found in the monthly theme in order to facilitate social marketing.

#### Teaser:

- A maximum of ten words that encourage the reader to read the devotional.
- It can be a sentence in your devotional that really brings home the point.
- It can be a question, but not an accusatory or guilt-inducing one such as "Have you sinned today?"
- Aim for a short, catchy sentence. Ask yourself, "would this make me want to read on?"

#### Passage:

- It's best to focus on only 1 or 2 verses. Longer passages take up too much space, especially on cell phones and tablets.
- Only indicate the version when not using the NIV or ESV (our recommended versions). Example: "For God [...] eternal life." John 3:16 (NLT)

#### Hook:

- 1–2 short paragraphs in length.
- You want to encourage your readers to read your devotional by hinting at how it meets their needs.
- Be creative: share a personal story — either yours or that of someone who has given you permission to do so —, bring up a struggle we all face or a question we've probably all pondered, use a thought-provoking quote, or retell the story of the passage in a fresh way. A good hook should have one main point that clearly connects to the truth you are highlighting in the passage.
- Avoid using allegorical or fictional stories.

#### One Key Truth:

- 1–2 short paragraphs in length.
- Briefly unpack one key truth from the passage you've chosen.
- Address cultural/historical background only to the extent needed to explain your point.

**Remember:** if you have not made the passage relevant, you have not written a devotional.

### **Application:**

- 1 short paragraph in length.
- Paint a precise picture of how our lives or communities would change if we lived out this truth by faith, in the power of the Spirit.
- Use the first-person plural (“we”) or the second-person singular (“you”) at this point because you want to help your readers apply the passage to their own lives.

### **Prayer:**

- 1–3 sentences in length.
- Use the first-person singular (I, me) to help readers personalize it.
- Focus on aspects of the character of God, the grace offered by Christ, the Spirit-filled life, or our mission that you mentioned in the devotional.

**Note: The editorial team will now be responsible for the “Go Deeper” and “Read Further” sections, although you remain free to offer suggestions in these regards.**

### **Word Count:**

- The hook, one key truth, and application sections should contain approximately 250 words.
- The passage, teaser, and prayer are not included in this limit.

### **Keep in Mind:**

- Avoid Christianese (words and expressions only Christians understand).
- Use American English spelling to ensure coherence with all other articles on our site. You can choose this language setting in Word by clicking on Tools, Language, English (US).
- Use the Oxford comma before “and.” Example: Betty, Mary, and Jane went to the Bible study.
- Stay consistent in your use of tenses in each paragraph. Example: do not use the present and past tense in the same paragraph.
- To facilitate reading and editing on our site, only the various names of God or titles for God will be capitalized from now on. Pronouns and adjectives used for God will not be.
- We will continue to capitalize the nouns *Bible*, *Church* (only when used of the universal Church), *God’s Word*, *Scripture*, *New Testament*, and *Old Testament*.
- We will allow no more than one or two biblical quotes or references in the body of the text because we add hyperlinks to all references. In many reading devices, this changes the color of the text, which is distracting to the reader.
- All comments of a national, racial, or political nature will be removed in order to ensure that our devotionals remain as universally relevant as possible.
- The text will also be edited to ensure theological, syntactical, and semantic clarity.
- **Only devotionals that respect the above guidelines will be published.**

These guidelines are not meant to hinder your creativity or your freedom in Christ. Rather, they are meant to facilitate your task and to ensure consistency with other articles on our site. If you have any concerns or questions concerning these guidelines, please do not hesitate to contact us at [editor@thelife.com](mailto:editor@thelife.com).