

Devotion Course

Jonathan K. Dodson | Citizens Church | Fall 2024

Course Purpose

A rich devotional life is foundational to Christian faith, but all too often we act like the devotional life begins with us. It can be tempting to focus on *what we do* (Bible study, prayer, meditation), but a rich devotional life begins with *what God does*. Keeping this in view makes a tremendous difference.

This course will immerse you in the classic spiritual disciplines, but with a pulsing grace meant to increase your joy in the Lord. It will equip you to identify secular liturgies which work against formation in Christ. Through study, discussion, the key project, and the Spirit's power, you will develop a personal liturgy that enables you to enjoy communion with God over a lifetime.

Course Expectations

St. Paul urges us to “discipline ourselves for the purpose of godliness” for benefit in this life and the life to come. In order to get the most out of this class, we ask that you:

- Attend 90% of the classes & complete the exercises
- Participate in group discussions
- Complete the key project

The final step in learning is communication. You are expected to share what you are learning with someone outside the class, e.g. discipleship group, home group, family devo.

Books

Required: Jonathan Dodson, *Devotion*

Recommended: James K. A. Smith, *You Are What You Love*

Course Overview:

10/10: **The Devotional Life**

- Dodson, Chapter 1 do exercises. *Optional*: Smith, ch. 1

10/17: **Living Liturgically**

- Dodson, Chapter 2 & do exercises. *Optional*: ch. 2

10/24: **Scripture as Devotion**

- Dodson, Chapter 3 & do exercises. *Optional*: ch. 3

11/7: **Prayer as Devotion**

- Read Chapter 4 & do exercises. *Optional*: ch. 5

11/14: **Unhurried Devotion**

- Read Chapter 5 & do exercises. *Optional*: ch. 7

11/21: **Devoted to the Church**

- Read Chapter 6 & do exercises and turn in *Key Project*. *Optional*: ch. 4

12/5: **The Joy of the Devotional Life**

- Read Chapter 7 and do exercises. *Optional*: ch. 6