

## How to Write a Deep Devotional

The busyness of today's world creates a problem in the lives of many Christians. It's hard to commit the time it takes to do most in-depth Bible studies. Even though many of us would love to spend 45 minutes or more a day digging deep into our Bibles, our lives simply demand too much time. (The value of building margin in our lives is a topic for another day!)

This common problem presents an opportunity for Bible study and devotional authors. Christians need guides that take the reader deep into Scripture in a shorter amount of time than traditional in-depth study guides. Christians need a hybrid – a “deep devotional.” A deep devotional is formatted like a daily devotional but includes some elements of the in-depth study like guidance to observe, interpret, and apply the biblical truths.

**Interested in writing a “meaty devotional?” Consider the following tips:**

1. **Focus on one main point** – Quality doesn't have to mean quantity. Most in-depth Bible study guides delve into multiple truths or points found in a given Scripture passage. For the devotional format, be selective. Identify the one main point of the day's passage and dig in there.
2. **Serve meat** – Don't be afraid to tackle the weightier truths and tougher topics of Scripture. It may be tempting to stick only to familiar stories and passages that don't raise questions. But Christians need all of God's Word for spiritual growth and equipping (Hebrews 5:13-14).
3. **Prioritize growth over comfort** – Some daily devotionals focus solely on encouragement and comfort for the reader. While God's Word does provide those things, its primary work is to shape us into the image of Christ through teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).
4. **Find the balance between “giving” and “guiding”** – A helpful deep devotional will give the reader just enough guidance to be able to dig into the Scripture for herself. The goal is to help and equip her to confidently handle God's Word for herself. Spoon feeding does not help the reader in the long run.

*Kathy Howard is the award-winning author of twelve books, including the meaty “[Deep Rooted](#)” devotional series. She has a Masters of Christian Education and serves on the LifeWay Women's Ministry Training Team. Kathy and her husband live in the Dallas/Ft Worth area near family. They have three married children, six grandchildren, and one accidental dog. Kathy provides free discipleship resources and blogs regularly at [KathyHoward.org](#). Contact Kathy through her [website](#) or email her at [kathy@KathyHoward.org](mailto:kathy@KathyHoward.org)*