



MORNINGS ARE AWESOME (ISH)



PREVIEW

Mornings can be difficult, but when you start them with Jesus, everything seems to turn out all right. It's hard to have a bad day when you start it with your awesome Father.

PRAISE

Ask the students if they are early birds or night owls. Do they have any early morning routines they follow to help them wake up? How often do they hit the snooze button?

PARABLE

Show this text conversation to the group:



Bottom line: good things can happen in the morning. What is something that wakes you up in the morning, something that gives you purpose to get out of bed?

PRESENT

Read Psalm 5:3. David declared that good things happen in the morning. It was in the morning that the Lord heard his voice; it was in the morning that he was able to present his needs; and it was in the morning that he waited patiently for the Lord to move. David took comfort in knowing that no matter how rough the night had been, there was some hope waiting for him in the morning.

Read Lamentations 3:22–24. We have new mercies every morning. No matter what happened the night before, mercies are new in the morning. While we may not be promised an answer the next morning, we are promised new mercies.

It is interesting to note that David waited patiently for the Lord to answer and never gave up on God, even if it meant asking for the same thing

day after day. He took comfort in knowing that even though his requests may have changed, he still served a God whose hearing did not. David knew that God hears His people and will move on their behalf in His perfect timing.

David went on to write that because of the love of God, he was able to enter the presence of God every day. He knew we do not deserve the love of God but every morning we are given new grace to face the day with the help of the Lord.

David understood that God does not look on man's outward appearance, but He looks upon the heart. He also understood that God knew when he was sincere or when he was insincere.

Each morning, David found himself too busy not to spend time with the Lord. He knew he could not handle his cray-cray life, royal schedule, and kingly responsibilities without first spending time with the Lord.

Do we look to God in the morning, approaching Him even before our day begins, or are we too busy to spend even just a few minutes with Him before we start our day?

I fear that too often we, as Christians, tend to worship God from afar. We have good intentions in developing a closer relationship with the Lord, but we let the business of life get in the way. And yet, what is there in our lives that is more important than God? Nothing!

Participating in early-morning devotions is a sure way to put God first in our day. On those mornings that we acknowledge God from the moment we place our feet on the floor, our day is different. We deal with temptation differently. We respond to difficulty differently. We engage with God throughout the day differently. Setting aside early-morning time for personal devotions lets us dedicate the whole rest of the day to God.

PRACTICE

It is time to change some habits of your morning routines. Instead of checking Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram, try reading your Bible or completing a devotion. Try getting ahold of your Savior before social media gets ahold of you. It will change your day, your outlook, and your life.

PRAY

Jesus, I love You! Thank You for allowing me to have a relationship with You. I want to do whatever I can to hold on to that relationship. Therefore, as David did, I am determined to seek You early every morning. I want You to be the first priority in my life.

PLUS

This lesson would be a great introduction to Devo 365 books. These are five- to ten-minute devotions written by students, youth pastors, and pastors from all over the country. These brief but timely messages would be a great resource for helping students to focus on a pertinent subject each morning.