



take up the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God We are so excited you have decided to join us this year on our journey through the Bible. Reading the scriptures, combined with prayer and fasting is arguably the most foundational way a Christian grows in their walk with Christ. Paul told Timothy it is the scriptures that prepare a child of God for "every good work." Paul told the church at Ephesus to "take up the Sword

of the Spirit which is the Word of God," and the Psalmist said, "the Word of the Lord is sweeter than honey to our mouths." Simply speaking, the Word of the Lord is vital and good.

During this journey, you can expect a level of opposition from the business of life, distractions that will rage, and even elements of spiritual attack. However, if you remain dedicated to meet with God each day in His Word, you can expect God to take you to new places in your walk with Him. If you need any help in reading God's Word, praying, or fasting, please reference the back of this booklet for some helpful tips that have been beneficial to us.

We encourage you to not just read the Word, but to feed on the Word of God. Let the Scriptures pour into your soul this year and press you deeper into the heart of God.

May the Lord bless you on this journey,

The Summit Church Teaching Pastors

PSALM 130:5

I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, And in His word do I hope.

JANUARY 2ND

JANUARY 1ST

TODAY'S READING

you will bear much fruit.

Genesis 1:1-2:25; Matthew 1:1-2:12; Psalm 1:1-6; Proverbs 1:1-6

PSALM 1 TODAY'S TRUTH

1-3

1

Joy, delight, prosperity... we're all looking for more of this, aren't we? Psalm 1 tells us that all of this comes from consistently and obediently following God's Word, not man's. As you begin this 31-day journey of reading the Bible, combined with prayer and fasting, expect God to do incredible things if you will simply take Him at His Word and live it out. Commit this very moment to plant yourself firmly in the eternal, always profitable, never failing Word of God, and

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 3:1-4:26 Matthew 2:13-3:6 Psalm 2:1-12 Proverbs 1:7-9

TODAY'S TRUTH

GEN. 3 **1-6**

Temptation is something that all mankind has experienced from the beginning. The good news: temptation is not sin. The bad news: temptation is the front door into sin and if we are going to guard against the attacks of the enemy we would do well to remember his schemes. The beginning of Satan's temptation is always to doubt God's Word, "Did God really say...". This is where temptation must be fought, on the firm foundation of the Word of God. If we choose to entertain this temptation and not take our thoughts captive, we will come to the same realization that Eve did: Satan over-promises and under-delivers. Remember the truth of 1 Corinthians 10:13, that there is not a temptation that can overtake you because God is faithful: He won't allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but He always provides a way of escape.

TODAY'S PRAYER

- Thank God for the joy and delight you have found in His Word.
- Ask God to help you hear from Him through His Word today.
- Ask God to reveal where your joy and delight are actually planted-the world or Him?
- Ask God to help you obey His Word.

TODAY'S PRAYER

Thank God that He has not left you to fight temptation alone but has given you His Spirit and Word to stand against temptation.

If there is an area in life where you're specifically being tempted, ask God to help you flee that temptation according to His Word.

Ask God to grow your trust in His Word as you resist the attacks of the enemy.

Ask God to help you live in the victory over sin that He has accomplished in His Son, Jesus Christ.

JANUARY 4TH

JANUARY 3RD

6-9

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 5:1-7:24; Matthew 3:7-4:11; Psalm 3:1-8; Proverbs 1:10-19

TODAY'S TRUTH

GEN. 6 We all desire to live such a life that it can be said of us, as it was said of Noah, that we are righteous and blameless. What would it look like for us to live such a life? It does not require perfection but requires us to "walk with God." Walking requires active movement. A righteous and blameless life is not stagnant but is an active working to go where God goes, at the pace that God sets, and to obey when God says. We don't just walk alone, but we walk with Someone, God. To walk with God is to be led by God. He sets the destination, and we follow. To walk with God is to learn from God. We hear His words, and we gain His wisdom. If you desire to be closer to God, then walk with Him, and He will walk with you.

TODAY'S READING Genesis 8:1-10:32: Matthew 4:12-25: Psalm 4:1-8:

Proverbs 1:20-23

TODAY'S TRUTH



In early Jewish culture, your vocation was largely determined by your father's occupation. If your father was a carpenter, you would be a carpenter. There would have been one exception to this cycle when a Rabbi would call younger Jewish men to come follow and learn from him. These young men would have considered it a great honor to spend years of their life with this teacher. This calling was similar to Jesus' calling of his first disciples to become "fishers of men." They were greatly honored, which is why they immediately dropped their nets to follow Jesus. Jesus' calling is the same for you today, to become a fisher of men. This does not mean God wants you to leave your current job but that God wants you to "fish" where He has placed you. It is our honor to serve Christ, and if Jesus is your Savior, He is calling you!

TODAY'S PRAYER

- 1) Thank God that you do not have to walk through life alone, but that He is with you - loving, protecting, and comforting you.
- 2) Ask God to reveal anything in your heart or life that is keeping you from walking with Him in honest fellowship.
- Ask God to give you clarity in where He is leading you 3 as you walk with Him.
 - Ask God to help you faithfully obey in what He clarifies for you.

TODAY'S PRAYER

- Thank God that you have been called to follow Him. 1
- 2 Ask God to remind you that you have been called foremost to be fishers of men- to bring the Good News of Jesus to a lost world.
 - 3 Ask God to show you how you can use where He has put you to faithfully share the gospel.
 - Pray for friends, family, and co-workers by name who need to hear the gospel.

JANUARY 6TH

JANUARY 5TH

MATT. 5

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 11:1-13:4; Matthew 5:1-26; Psalm 5:1-12; Proverbs 1:24-28

TODAY'S TRUTH

Singing, dancing, hands raised, or kneeling can all be acts of worship, but can worship be reduced to just these things? In these verses, Jesus tells the worshippers that if they realize that someone has something against them, justly or unjustly, then there should be an attempt on the part of the worshipper to be reconciled, before they present their offerings to God. This should remind us that God wants our worship to be more than something we do on Sundays, but something that affects every part of our lives, including how we treat people. Jesus would later teach that to love God is the first command of His children, but he said the second is like it - "and love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27). Our worship cannot be genuine if it does not affect how we treat other people.

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 13:5-15:21; Matthew 5:27-48; Psalm 6:1-10; Proverbs 1:29-33

TODAY'S TRUTH

MATT. 5 **44-45**

Is it easy or hard to love people? The honest answer is it depends on the person. Some people are easy to love. These are the people that love us, encourage us, protect us, and like us. But what about the people who annoy us, discourage us, bring us down, or even are in opposition to us? Naturally, we want to keep harmful people at arm's length. Matthew 5:44-45 tells us to love our enemies. Jesus' command is to love those who are hard to love. In and of ourselves, we are not capable of demonstrating this kind of love on our own. If you have believed in Christ, then Christ is in you, and the love He has for you, He can share through you. We can love the unlovable in others because God loved the unlovable in us. Be reminded today, that while we were enemies, God loved us (Romans 5:10), and we can love because He has first loved us (1 John 4:19).

TODAY'S PRAYER

- Thank God that He is worthy of our worship and express in your own words His worthiness.
- 2 Ask God to search and show you if you are loving others as you should.
- Ask God to forgive you if He reveals anything.
- Ask God to help your worship be genuine and not something that happens only on Sundays, but every day.

TODAY'S PRAYER

- Give thanks to God for loving you so much by sending His only Son to save you.
- Ask God to whom in your life, right now, do you need to show the love of Christ.
 - Ask God to give you strength to forgive someone who may have hurt you.
 - Ask God to help you understand the love He has for you more clearly so His love can flow through you.

JANUARY 8TH

JANUARY 7TH

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 16:1-18:15; Matthew 6:1-24; Psalm 7:1-17; Proverbs 2:1-15

TODAY'S TRUTH

GEN. 18 Abraham was one-hundred years old, and according to Romans 4:19, his body was as good as dead. Sarah was old and well past child-bearing years. It's easy to imagine why she laughed to herself when the Lord promised her and Abraham a child. Yet, a child came, nonetheless. The problem between Sarah's laugh and God's promise was belief. Often, our belief in what God can do and what God will do, are miles apart. Sarah had a promise from God that she didn't believe He was capable of accomplishing, and this was God's response: "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" God's promises are guaranteed because His power is infinite. Sarah had a promise and if you are in Christ Jesus you have promises from God as well all throughout scripture. Today, rest in the truth of 2 Corinthians 1:20: "For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!"

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 18:16-19:38; Matthew 6:25-7:14; Psalm 8:1-9; Proverbs 2:6-15

TODAY'S TRUTH



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3

4

Every child loves to receive gifts from their parents, and even though we are not perfect, we love to give our children everything they need. This text tells us that God loves to provide for us as our heavenly Father! This is an important truth. Our faith tells us that God loves us, knows our weaknesses, and meets our needs as a loving father. Without this foundation, it would make it impossible to trust God in moments that are difficult. Like any good parent, God doesn't always give His children everything they want, but lovingly gives them everything they need in His timing. Knowing that God loves us and will provide for us, gives us the freedom to know that we can bring to him all of our requests. It gives us the peace knowing that whatever He chooses to do with those requests are within His wonderful plan to love us as children.

TODAY'S PRAYER

Thank the Lord that he has promised to work out all things for your good and for His glory (Romans 8:28).



14

Ask God to help you rest in the truth that He is all-powerful and nothing is impossible for Him.

- 3 There may be a situation you are going through right now that can only be resolved by God. Ask Him to move and work on your behalf.
 - Ask God to grow your belief in what He can do in and through your life.

TODAY'S PRAYER

- Thank God that He is a loving Father to you.
- 2 Bring your concerns, problems, needs and cares to God and ask Him to meet each one.
- Ask God to help you see Him as a loving Father, and rest in the security that it brings.
- Ask God to help you wait joyfully for Him as He works out His incredible plan for your life.

JANUARY 10TH

JANUARY 9TH

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 20:1-22:24; Matthew 7:15-29; Psalm 9:1-12; Proverbs 2:16-22

TODAY'S TRUTH

SALM 9 1-2

David begins to praise God by telling of all the marvelous things God had done. The results of this type of praise was that he was, "filled with joy" because of God. God is a good and gracious Father to His children. If God did nothing more for us than send His Son Jesus to pay the ransom for our sin in order that we could receive grace, we would have more than enough reason to praise Him every moment of our lives and throughout all eternity. One of the greatest hindrances that keep Christians from walking in joy is our lack of praise. When we take the time to praise God, we are not only giving to God what He rightly deserves, but we are also reminded of the goodness of God towards us and thereby filled with joy. Take a moment and reflect on all the things God has done in your life that you can praise Him for.

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 23:1-24:51; Matthew 8:1-17; Psalm 9:13-20; Proverbs 3:1-6

TODAY'S TRUTH

PROV. 3 5-6

How many times in life have we found ourselves in a tough situation because we made the wrong decision? This text tells us that if we trust ourselves to always make the right decision without trusting and seeking God's wisdom, we will always fail. How do I not lean on my own understanding and instead lean on God's? By seeking God's will. God desires for us to pray to Him when we are faced with decisions because He desires to lead us in the way we should go. This is why Philippians 4:6 tells us to be anxious in nothing but to pray in everything. Often, we're anxious in everything because we're praying in nothing. Know that God has a plan for you and wants to lead you if you will seek Him.

TODAY'S PRAYER

- Thank God and praise Him that He saved you.
- Ask God to help you remember daily all the things He has done for you.
- Ask God to let you be able to encourage others by telling of the great things God has done for you.
 - Finish your time praying with a time of praise...sing vour favorite worship song to the Lord.

TODAY'S PRAYER

- Thank the Lord that He is trustworthy and that He has a good plan for your life.
 - Ask God to help you to slow down and seek Him in 2 making decisions in your life.
 - Ask God to help you to trust him for His plan for your life.
 - Ask God to make you open to be used by God in any way He desires.

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JANUARY 12TH

JANUARY 11TH

MATT. 8

26

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 24:52-26:16; Matthew 8:18-34; Psalm 10:1-15; Proverbs 3:7-8

TODAY'S TRUTH

Humans are fearful of a lot of things. From spiders to public speaking, each one of us has something that causes that knot in our stomach to rise up and fear to paralyze us. In Matthew 8, Jesus' disciples were fearful of a storm that threatened to destroy their boat. What was Jesus doing while his disciples were panicking? Sleeping. Do you ever feel like God is sleeping while things are burning in your life? Notice Jesus' response after they wake him up: "Why are you afraid? You of little faith." The truth we can rest in is that, if Jesus is in the boat, we don't have to be afraid. Not only can He calm any storm, but He loves and cares for us. Let us not fear, but fight fear with faith, knowing that Jesus always saves.

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 26: 17-27:46; Matthew 9:1-17; Psalm 10: 16-18; Proverbs 3:9-10

TODAY'S TRUTH

GEN. 27 **1-46**

Being a part of a family means you experience a lot of joy and a lot of dysfunction. If we're honest, our family experience resembles less Brady Bunch and more Full House. The families in the Bible are no different, and you would be hard pressed to find one that could be called "healthy." In this text we see a mom showing favoritism, Esau having no discernment and selling his birthright for a bowl of soup, Isaac deceiving his aging father, the beginning of a 20-year grudge between brothers, and this was just one day in the family of Abraham! Why would the Bible continue to put before us such broken homes? Because God is in the business of redeeming. He was faithful to heal and use Abraham's family and He will be faithful to heal and use yours as well. Trust God today that He can do far and beyond what you could hope for in your heart and in the heart of your family.

TODAY'S PRAYER

- 1) Thank the Lord that you don't have to fear because God has saved you and is with you.
- If there is something you are fearful of right now, give that to God and ask Him to help you trust Him.
- 3 Ask God to help you grow your faith to trust Him in spite of fearful circumstances.
 - Ask God to give you rest in your soul to take on today with no fear.

TODAY'S PRAYER

- Thank the Lord for your family and thank Him for adopting you into the family of God.
- Pray that God would first reveal in your heart what He would have you do in your family.
- Pray for any problem you might be experiencing in your family right now (a lost loved one, sickness, conflict, direction, etc.).
- Ask God to use your family to make His Name known in all the earth.

JANUARY 14TH

JANUARY 13TH

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 28:1-29:35; Matthew 9:18-38; Psalm 11:1-7; Proverbs 3:11-12

PROV. 3 11-12

TODAY'S TRUTH

One thing is for certain: discipline is always difficult. Whether in exercising, studying, or even because of sin in our lives, discipline hurts, but it also helps. As one pastor said, "I'd rather be in the woodshed of God than the palace of Satan." How does discipline help and why is it good? According to today's reading, God disciplines us because He wants to correct us and make us better. God won't allow us to live in sin that is harmful to us or to others. God disciplines so that we will walk according to His ways and we can experience life to the fullest. God doesn't just discipline to correct, but also because He loves us. When we are disciplined by God, it's a sign we are children of God. God is a good Father who cares so much for His children that He will correct to protect. Don't reject His discipline today but instead thank Him for it.

TODAY'S PRAYER

- Thank the Lord that He loves you so much to discipline you.
- Ask God to help you learn from the discipline in your life.
- 3 Ask God to help you find peace in moments of discipline.
 - Ask God to give you power through His Spirit to not reject God's discipline.

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 30:1-31:16; Matthew 10:1-23; Psalm 12:1-8; Proverbs 3:13-15

TODAY'S TRUTH

MATT. 10 1-23

For the majority of us, our view of Christianity and what it means to follow Jesus has been shaped more by the culture around us than by the Bible. To be honest, this is a pretty sad reality because the picture that the Bible paints of following Jesus is so much more exciting and adventurous than what the majority of Christians experience today. What if we allowed our view of following Jesus to be shaped ONLY by what we read in the Bible? What if we believed that what Jesus said to these early followers was true for us today? We would read Matthew 10:1-23 in a whole different light! We would believe that as Jesus' followers, we are called to usher in the kingdom by healing the sick, raising the dead, cleansing lepers, and casting out demons. We would believe that we have authority in Jesus' name! The truth is, God wants our relationship with Him to be shaped more by the Bible than He does our culture or what we know of "church" from past experience. The truth is...God has called us to SO MUCH MORE! Will you embrace more today?

TODAY'S PRAYER

- Thank the Lord that He gave us the Bible to instruct us in our relationship with Him.
 - Ask God to open your eyes to see the life He has for you through the Bible.
 - Ask God to give you courage to act on His desires.
 - Ask God to speak to you throughout the day today in every situation.

3

JANUARY 15TH

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 31:17-32:12; Matthew 10:24-11:6; Psalm 13:1-6; Proverbs 3:16-18

TODAY'S TRUTH

We've all had people in our lives who we feel are, for whatever reason, against us. Sometimes it's a boss. Sometimes it is a co-worker with whom we constantly find ourselves quarrelling. King David was familiar with adversity but his came in the form of someone wanting to kill him! Yet, in the middle of adversity, David could sing to the Lord. How? This text gives us the answer: those who trust in the Lord will rejoice, and those who rejoice, sing. The question for today: Are we trusting God so much that we're rejoicing? So much that we begin to sing? Are we recognizing God's loving, kind, bountiful blessings in the midst of our trouble? If not, something is wrong. It's time to pause and recount the lifesaving blessings of our great God! It's the only way to survive the battle of life with joy.

JANUARY 16TH

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 32:13-34:31; Matthew 11:7-30; Psalm 14:1-7; Proverbs 3:19-20

TODAY'S TRUTH

MATT. 11 11

We all have a picture in our minds of what it means to achieve greatness. For some it's a certain salary, others a certain job, and for others a great family. Whatever the definition, we all want to be great. In this text, we get to see someone who was truly great-John the Baptist. What made John the Baptist great? He was great because he was filled with the Holy Spirit. He was great because he was a man of conviction. He was great because he desired to obey God over being comfortable. He was great because he pointed people to Jesus. If you want to achieve greatness, follow the example of John the Baptist and you will quickly realize what a great life is all about.

TODAY'S PRAYER

- Thank the Lord that He is trustworthy and thank Him for the specific times in your life He has proven His trustworthiness.
- 2

SALM 13

5-6

Ask God to help you rejoice and sing in the middle of adversity.

3 Ask God to reveal any area of your life where you are not rejoicing and diagnose if its due to lack of trust.

Ask God to help you find joy today in every situation you face.

TODAY'S PRAYER

Thank God that He doesn't define greatness in the way the world does.

- Ask God to show you if there is any discrepancy between the greatness you're striving after and the way God has defined it.
- Ask God to empower you through the filling of His Spirit to help live a life of obedience towards Him.
- Ask God to give you an opportunity today to point people to Jesus.

JANUARY 17TH

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 35:1-36:43; Matthew 12:1-21; Psalm 15:1-5; Proverbs 3:21-26

TODAY'S TRUTH

PS.15

Abiding is not a word we use every day. To abide somewhere is to stay fixed and focused in that position. David asks in this text, "O Lord, who may abide in your tent?" The answer: "He who walks with integrity and works of righteousness." Who can abide with God? The person of integrity. How can we grow to be people of integrity? By listening to the Lord daily at His gates and being open to what He says. This is aided and developed by transparent honesty. A person who desires integrity will quickly admit his faults and have nothing to hide with trusted friends. He is willing to be accountable and admit when he fails. Integrity is not perfection, but it is the soundness that helps a man finish well, and be a testimony to the faithfulness of God.

TODAY'S PRAYER

Thank God that He always deals with you with all integrity.







JANUARY 18TH

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 37:1-38:30; Matthew 12:22-45; Psalm 16:1-11; Proverbs 3:27-32

TODAY'S TRUTH

GEN. 37

From the earliest of age, jealousy can be readily seen. Children are jealous over toys and attention, while adults are jealous over cars and promotions. Jealousy being common in no way diminishes its seriousness. It's deadly. When jealousy enters a human heart, it will always burn, and ultimately, destroy not only the jealous man, but also those around him. Nowhere is this seen more than in the lives of Joseph's brothers. His brothers were jealous over their father's love for their younger brother and God's apparent anointing on Joseph's life. What did it produce? Hatred, bitterness, and strife. In fact, everybody lost. They lost their relationship with God and their brother, Joseph. The father lost his son. And the son, Joseph, lost years of his life, but was ultimately on a path that only God knew. God will reward us for our faith and surrender, and He will ultimately judge the judgers. The winner in the end was Joseph, as he walked with God and did not sin in his heart, even in the midst of his brothers' attacks.

TODAY'S PRAYER

- Thank God that He doesn't withhold anything from you that is good for you.
- Ask the Lord to show you any area where you may have jealousy in your life.
 - Ask God to grow your thankfulness in what he has provided to you personally.
 - Ask the Lord to empower you to live a life characterized by contentment.

JANUARY 19TH

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 39:1-41:16; Matthew 12:46-13:23; Psalm 17:1-15; Proverbs 3:33-35

TODAY'S TRUTH

PS.17 4-15

We all have our eyes set on something. Most of the time we are looking at what is most immediately in front of us. Our gaze is often captured by material needs and wants, troublesome circumstances, or even hopes for the future. In this text, we see a better and more beneficial gaze. David's orientation was toward God. His face was turned in that direction, and it was his greatest desire for which he would sacrifice anything. Wise King David knew that nothing would satisfy Him like the face of Christ. God would give him everything he needed in this life and the life to come. It never stops. Death isn't a loss but a gain of much greater treasure and ultimately, a "new heaven and new earth" of glorious proportions! What do you want? Be careful of your choice, for everything depends on it.

JANUARY 20TH

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 41:17-42:17; Matthew 13:24-46; Psalm 18:1-15; Proverbs 4:1-6

TODAY'S TRUTH

PROV. 4 1-6

If you've ever been tubing on a lake, then you know what it's like to cling to something. As the boat jerks you over the waves, you have to hold tight or risk flying off. Dads are guick to remind their kids, "Ok, it's about to get bumpy. Don't forget to hang on!" We can hear those same words calling to us in today's reading. A father is telling his son, "The promises and principles of God keep us afloat. Let your heart hold fast to them. Do not forget and do not turn away." So, decide today to memorize a verse from Scripture – a promise for your heart to cling to. And, when turbulent seasons come, you will hear our Heavenly Father's voice reminding us, "Don't forget to hang on!"

TODAY'S PRAYER

- Thank the Lord that He has opened your eyes to His glory.
- Ask God to show you where your eyes are set right now.
- Ask God to help you see Him as bigger than your circumstances.
 - Ask God to empower you to set your eyes on only what is good today.

TODAY'S PRAYER

- Thank the Lord for the promises we find 1 in His Word.
- Ask God to open your eyes to see the wisdom of 2 His commands.
- Ask God to empower you to walk according to His 3 ways, and not turn to the right or left.

Thank God for being a good Father to us. 4

JANUARY 21ST

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 42:18-43:34; Matthew 13:47-14:12; Psalm 18:16-36; Proverbs 4:7-10

TODAY'S TRUTH

58 Do you will mo

Do you ever feel like God isn't moving in your life? Often, God will move in proportion to our belief, or as this text shows, there are times God won't move if we have unbelief in our hearts. Are you content with how God is moving in your life right now? God has more for you. He always does. Where are you aborting God's activity by your unbelief? Is there somewhere that you simply will not believe God because it's beyond the realm of your knowledge or experience, and you're having a hard time making the stretch to believe? That's where faith comes in. Remember this: nothing is impossible with God. Absolutely nothing. What is the next step of faith God is calling you to take? The step that will show the world the incredible reality of God's miraculous power?

JANUARY 22ND

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 44:1-45:28; Matthew 14:13-36; Psalm 18:37-50; Proverbs 4:11-13

TODAY'S TRUTH

MATT. 14 23

Would you like more prayer in your life? Every follower of Jesus would hopefully answer this question with a resounding. 'Yes!' No matter our reason for lack of prayer in our life, the example Jesus set was to get away and pray. Prayer was not an extra thing to do with Jesus. Prayer was the foundation of the house. The first and foremost thing to do. How could He possibly lead without regular seasons of extended communion with His Father? How could He stand against His enemies without extended times where His Father poured life into Him, spoke words of affirmation and truth to Him, reminded Him of every promise of the Scripture? To Jesus, extended times of solitude in prayer were a non-negotiable. If we wonder at the weakness of our lives, we need look no further. If the Son of God needed such seasons of instruction, encouragement, and direction in prayer, how do we possibly think we could do otherwise?

TODAY'S PRAYER

- 1) Thank God He is all-powerful and there is nothing He cannot accomplish in your life.
- Ask God to show you any place of unbelief in your life and ask for help to understand why it is there.
- 3 Ask God to lead you to His promises in His word that will speak directly into your areas of unbelief.
 - Ask the Lord to help you live a life of bold belief in who He is and what He can do.

TODAY'S PRAYER

- Thank the Lord that you can come to Him in prayer, openly and freely.
 - Ask God to grow your desire to speak with Him daily.
- Ask God to give you spiritual discernment in an area of life where you may have uncertainty.

Ask the Lord to teach you how to pray.

JANUARY 23RD

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 46:1-47:31; Matthew 15:1-28; Psalm 19:1-14; Proverbs 4:14-19

TODAY'S TRUTH

MATT. 15 **7-8**

We've probably all been told once, "Do as I say not as I do." We've also had moments in our life where we have lived out this adage. Unfortunately, the Bible calls speaking different than the way we live hypocrisy. When we live a hypocritical life, our worship is merely surface level and our hearts are not near God's. Because a hypocrite is not connected to God, they have no ability to know the real truth. Therefore, they teach what they believe, which is merely their best thoughts. Since they live for their own self-glory and pleasure, they rewrite the truth to fit their goals. Again, this is disastrous because it makes a caricature of real Christianity. They are not only believing their false religion, they are teaching others. Hypocrisy is deadly. Satan sows "tares among the wheat" in the church and can pepper a church with hypocrites. This dilutes everything and causes the witness of the church to be lost. We must know how to spot any bit of hypocrisy in our own lives and in the lives of others and deal with it guickly and appropriately.

TODAY'S PRAYER

Thank God for His grace even when you don't live a consistent life.



Ask God to draw you closer to Himself so that you can live according to His Word.

Ask God to help you be a person who reflects God's glory in every area of your life.

JANUARY 24TH

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 48:1-49:33; Matthew 15:29-16:12; Psalm 20:1-9; Proverbs 4:20-27

TODAY'S TRUTH

PROV. 4 **23**

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4

One of the reasons bank robberies are so rare is because banks are so guarded. The money we deposit has security guards, security procedures, and most importantly, a giant safe to protect it. Why so much trouble? Because money is valuable. This text tells us to guard our hearts with all alertness or care. Why? Because it's out of our hearts that the spring of life flows. If our hearts become polluted, what comes out? Something polluted. If our hearts remain pure, what comes out? Something pure. That is why we must guard our hearts. We cannot allow anything that is not wholesome and of God. We must put safeguards around our hearts to make sure that they are protected. How are you protecting your heart?

TODAY'S PRAYER

- Thank God that He is the one who restores and cleanses your heart.
- Ask God to reveal any weakness that would allow your heart to become polluted.
- Ask God to fortify your defenses through His Spirit, His Word, and prayer to protect your heart.
- Ask the Lord to put people in your life who will help you guard your heart.

JANUARY 26TH

JANUARY 25TH

PS. 21

TODAY'S READING

Genesis 50:1 - Exodus 2:10; Matthew 16:13-17:9; Psalm 21:1-13; Proverbs 5:1-6

TODAY'S TRUTH

In Psalm 21 we see that King David recognized that his strength, salvation, security, joy, and very life come from the Lord alone. Because of the steadfast love of God, this earthly king gladly ran to the Lord to find everything he needed for his everyday life and leadership. The reality is, David was king because of who God was, not because of what David could do. Today let's run into the steadfast nature, character, and love of God.

Proverbs 5:7-14

TODAY'S READING

God in whatever He wants

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4

Many of us have the desire to obey God in whatever He wants us to do, if we just knew what to do! Fortunately, in this text Jesus explicitly tells us our purpose: to proclaim the kingdom of heaven. Our purpose in life, fundamentally, is as we're going to work, school, church, family events, grocery stores, music recitals, or any other area we may find ourselves - to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. What is the good news? Jesus offers eternal life and all who will repent of their sins and believe that God raised Jesus from the dead will be saved. What incredible news it is! Our motivation in proclaiming the good news is that we've experienced the good news personally. If you've tasted and seen that the Lord is good, are you faithfully telling others that they can do the same?

Exodus 2:11-3:22; Matthew 17:10-27; Psalm 22:1-18;

TODAY'S PRAYER

- Thank the Lord for His steadfast love toward you.
- Ask God to help you see clearly any obstacles or opposition you are facing in life right now.
- Ask God to help you specifically in these areas of obstacles or opposition.
- In your own words, ask the Lord to be glorified in your life on a daily basis.

TODAY'S PRAYER

- Thank the Lord for saving you from your sins and bringing you into eternal life.
- Ask God to help you fall more in love with Him as your Savior.
- Ask God to help you faithfully proclaim the good news to people in your life.
 - Take a moment and pray specifically, by name, for
 people who need to hear the good news.

JANUARY 27TH

EXO. 5

TODAY'S READING

Exodus 4:1-5:21; Matthew 18:1-20; Psalm 22:19-31; Proverbs 5:15-21

TODAY'S TRUTH

Of all of the sins that exist, pride is the worst culprit. In fact, pride is the genesis of all sins. The heart that is lifted up, that thinks one is bigger than God and does not need God, is that which ushers in a self-directed life. Pharaoh, in his epic encounter with the servant of God, Moses, is the picture of pride. Pharaoh believed that he had transcended God and thus, he did not need God. Unfortunately, we can all grow prideful. While it may not take the form of believing we are God, as it was with Pharaoh, we often think we can make decisions, produce outcomes, or live our own lives with no need for God. This is always a recipe for disaster. The bad news: God is opposed to the proud. The good news: He gives grace to the humble. Humble yourself before God, and you will be met with His never-ending, always needed grace.

JANUARY 28TH

TODAY'S READING

Exodus 5:22-7:25; Matthew 18:21-19:12; Psalm 23:1-6; Proverbs 5:22-23

TODAY'S TRUTH

PS. 23 **1-6**

If you've ever had someone stand up for you, then you know the confidence that it brings. There is nothing better than knowing you have someone in your corner. David tells us that God is our Shepherd, always working on our behalf. He leads us. He restores us. He protects us. He comforts us. He prepares a feast for us. He anoints us. The Lord being our shepherd means we have everything we need. Fear and uncertainty cannot remain in our hearts for long. Why? The Lord is our shepherd. Rest today knowing you have the Good Shepherd leading and protecting you.

TODAY'S PRAYER

- 1) Thank the Lord that He is always patient with you and always willing to meet you with grace.
 - Ask God to show you any area of your heart where pride might have crept in.
- 3 Ask God to help you be humble before Him knowing that He is not asking you to earn anything from Him.
 - Ask God to empower you to model the humility of Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S PRAYER

- Thank God you do not have to do this life alone but have a Shepherd to guide you.
- Ask the Lord to help you see Him as a good shepherd who can be trusted.
- If you have a specific need right now, bring that before the Lord knowing He will provide for you.
 - Ask God to empower you to faithfully follow wherever He is leading you today.

JANUARY 29TH

TODAY'S READING

Exodus 8:1-9:35; Matthew 19:13-30; Psalm 24:1-10; Proverbs 6:1-5

TODAY'S TRUTH

MATT. 19

3-15

When we were children, the stories of Jesus captivated us. Jesus walking on water, healing the blind, or raising the dead to life would leave us in absolute amazement. It seems the older we get and the more we hear these stories, the less spectacular they become. It becomes an obvious fact to us that Jesus did these things. In this text, we see Jesus inviting the children to come to Him because they will inherit the kingdom. The disciples walked with Jesus for three years, yet in this story, little children are the example to follow. Why is this the case? Because sometimes all we need is a simple, awe-struck faith and wonder in who Jesus is. Jesus is still the same One who turned water into wine, fed the 5,000, caused the mute to speak, the lame to walk, and the storms to calm. Today, Jesus' calling is simple: are you amazed by Him enough to, as a child, simply trust Him?

JANUARY 30TH

TODAY'S READING

Exodus 10:1-12:13; Matthew 20:1-28; Psalm 25:1-15; Proverbs 6:6-11

TODAY'S TRUTH

PROV. 6 **6-11**

Laziness is a common enemy we all must do battle against. It promises a present gain and a future cost. It causes us to lose what we have and miss out on what we could have. As Thomas Edison said, "We often miss opportunity because it's dressed in overalls and looks like work." God teaches us this lesson by pointing to one of the most overlooked things He could have...the ant. The ant becomes our teacher in the face of laziness. For what the ant loses in size he makes up for in hard work. An ant thinks about the future, prepares for the future, and does what is necessary to be able to thrive in the future. God desires for us to take every gift He has given us, our physical ability, intellect, opportunities, and use it for His glory. He commands us to do everything as if we are doing it for the Lord. One the best ways we can honor God is by working hard at whatever He has called us to.

TODAY'S PRAYER

- 1 Thank the Lord that He doesn't require anything more from you other than your trust in Him.
 - Ask God to give you the faith of a child in Him.
- 3 Ask God to re-ignite your wonder for who He truly is.
- 4 Take a moment and reflect on all the amazing things God has done in your life and thank Him for them.

TODAY'S PRAYER

- Thank the Lord for providing for every need you have.
- Ask God to help you honor Him by working hard at what He has called you to.
- Ask God to reveal any area of laziness in your life.
- Ask God to show you how to be a good steward in what He has given you.

JANUARY 31ST

TODAY'S READING

Exodus 12:14-13:16; Matthew 20:29-21:22; Psalm 25:16-22; Proverbs 6:12-15

TODAY'S TRUTH

One of the things that is certain in life is that storms will come. Some of them will be small and others big and turbulent. Storms don't have to be scary, though. If you have the right shelter you can weather any storm. The Lord promises to be your refuge. He will be the One who will protect and keep the storms of life from overcoming you. He has been tested and shown Himself able to withstand anything that would threaten you. More than that, He promises to not allow anything that could ultimately drown you spiritually. Does God teach you to be stronger to withstand these storms? No. He calls you to simply take refuge in Him. To rest in Him. To trust Him and He will be your hiding place.

TODAY'S PRAYER

- Thank the Lord that He is a strong refuge for you.
- Ask God to help you trust Him in a storm you may be going through.

Ask God to show you if you're taking refuge in anything other than Him to weather the storms of life.

Take a moment to reflect on how God has been faithful to you in the past and thank Him for it.



CONGRATULATIONS! You've just spent 31 days in God's Word. There is no better way to start your year and we know God spoke many things to you. The exciting thing is that God has so much more He wants to say to you! Continue spending daily time with the Lord in His Word and prayer.

We want to encourage you to continue on this journey and commit to read through the entire Bible in a year. You can use the guide we are providing to help keep you on track.

Know that any time you spend with the Lord is never wasted time. Disciplining ourselves to consistently meet with Him will reap benefits both now and for eternity.

We leave you with this prayer from Psalm 67:1-2 "May God be gracious to you and bless you and make his face to shine upon you that His way may be known on earth, Your saving power among all nations."



WE'VE CREATED A WORSHIP PLAYLIST ON SPOTIFY FOR YOUR PERSONAL WORSHIP TIME. FOLLOW THIS LINK TO STREAM MUSIC THAT WILL HELP YOU CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT TO MEET WITH GOD.



HTTP://BIT.LY/SUMMITWORSHIPPLAYLIST



John 17:3 says, "And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." This verse clearly tells us that eternal life is knowing God. We can only know about God what He chooses to reveal to us. The good news is that God has chosen to reveal Himself to us in His son, Jesus, and through His Word, the Bible.

If you want to know God better this year, meet Him in His Word. If you want your spiritual life to flourish this year, meet Him in His Word. If you want your faith to be on fire this year, meet Him in His Word. As Psalm 19:7 tells us, "The Law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul."



There are many different methods in studying the Bible, but one that is particularly helpful can be described by using the acrostic "SOAP." When looking at a verse, chapters, or even a book of Scripture, do these four things:

SCRIPTURE

Simply read the passage of Scripture.

OBSERVATIONS

What are some of the things that jump out as you read the passage? What is it saying? What has God revealed in these verses?

SOME HELPFUL QUESTIONS TO ASK:

1. What does this passage tell me about God?

- 2. What does it tell me about sin?
- 3. What does it tell me about myself?

APPLICATION

In light of these observations, how should this passage change the way I am currently living? In what ways does it apply to my situation? How should transformation take place?

PRAYER

What should we pray for in light of this passage? How does it lead us to worship God?



Prayer is not just the bookends of your daily time with the Lord, but it is the power that should drive everything you do! At its most basic definition, prayer is talking with God. What an incredible blessing that we can talk with God! Though prayer is simple, it is also powerful. In John 15:7, Jesus says,

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will done for you."

There is great power when your prayers align with God's Word. As you start this journey, make prayer a priority of your daily life.

TIPS FOR PRAYING GOD'S WORD

- **1.** As you start your bible reading for the day, begin with a short prayer asking God to help you hear, understand, and apply what He has for you today.
- **2.** Read the particular passage from God's Word for the day.
- **3.** If a chapter, verse, or truth jumps out to you, dwell on that and use it as a springboard into your prayer.
- **4.** As you are praying, think through if there is a praise to give to God, a sin to confess, a command to follow, or a promise to claim.
- **5.** When you have heard from the Lord, bring your requests to Him, big or small, knowing that God desires to hear from you!
- 6. As you go through your day, remember your time with the Lord and try to faithfully live out all that He taught you.

HEAR GOD THROUGH

In Matthew 6:16, Jesus gives instructions on fasting. It is often overlooked that Jesus assumes that believers will fast. Fasting is all about pursuing God and desiring to hear from Him. During a fast, we give something up to be able to give that time to the Lord. We don't fast to simply deprive us from something that we enjoy, but we fast so that we can feast on God. As pastor and author Sam Storms writes, "Fasting is about ingesting the Word of God, the beauty of God, the presence of God, the blessing of God. Fasting is about spiritual indulgence! It is not the giving up of food (or some activity) for its own sake. It is giving up food for Christ's sake." While normally we fast from food, we can fast from all kinds of things. Fasting from social activities or technology can also be beneficial to help you as you pursue God during your fast.

- **SET OBJECTIVES** why are you wanting to fast? What are your goals in fasting? Is there a specific problem you are wanting to hear from God about?
- 2 **COMMIT TO A FAST** how long will you fast? What type of fast will you be doing? What activities or technology will you fast from?
- **3 PREPARE SPIRITUALLY** do you have any sins you need to confess? Do you have a broken relationship you need to restore through forgiveness? Have you asked God to fill you with His Spirit?
- **PREPARE PHYSICALLY** move slowly into longer fasts, eating smaller meals as you prepare. Exercise moderately during your fast making sure to not overly exert yourself.
- 5 PLAN A SCHEDULE plan out each day of your fast. Schedule how much time you will spend praying and in God's Word. Schedule when and what you will eat.



7 EXPECT GOD TO SPEAK – if you are sincerely pursuing God, expect him to speak and move powerfully during your fast. Be ready to obey when He speaks.

SCHEDULE OPTIONS FOR FASTING

21 DAY FAST >>>>> Begin on the 8th 10 DAY FAST >>>>> Begin on the 19th 7 DAY FAST >>>>> Begin on the 22nd 3 DAY FAST >>>>> Begin on the 26th



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