

Through The Bible In One Year

The Adventure of Many Lifetimes

Unpublished Work, December 2005, David W. Shockey.

Daily Devotional Companion

Kick-Off Week

Preparing for the Great Adventure:

Day 1: Read Genesis 1.3

Reflection Questions:

God creates light by speaking his Word. What does this reveal about the nature of God's word? What power does God's Word have? Why does it have such power?

Prayer: God, as I read through your Word every day this coming year, speak your powerful Word into my life. Day by day make me into the person you created and redeemed me to be. Amen.

Day 2: Read Isaiah 55.8-11

Reflection Questions:

God's thoughts and ways are far above human understanding. How can we know God? How can we know God's thoughts toward us or his will and way for us?

Prayer: God, you are so far above and beyond me, I cannot possibly know you or walk beside you, as I long to do, unless you reveal yourself to me through your Word. I long to know you intimately, and be yours totally! Day by day, as I read and reflect on your Word, reveal yourself to me. Amen.

Day 3: Read Psalm 119.105

Reflection Questions:

Life now is a long journey in a dark woods, with many crossroads and conflicting choices. How is God's Word like a light or lamp for a journey? How bright is your lamp burning these days? What will help it burn brighter?

Prayer: God, every day is like walking through a dark woods, with confusing choices at every turn. As I read through your Word this year, let your Word become for me, day by day, like a lamp casting a steady circle of light around me, in which I can walk with you on my long journey of life. Amen.

Day 4: Read Matthew 13.1-10, “The Parable of the Sower”

Reflection Questions:

The Word of God is life-giving, powerful, and creative. Like a seed it will sprout, grow and bear fruit in a receptive soul. 1. What barriers or stumbling stones are there to God’s Word being received and having its desired way in my life? What part will the devil, the world, and my own inner weaknesses play in my receiving God’s Word daily, or not receiving his Word? 2. How will I make time to receive God’s life-giving Word? 3. What things will I have to lay aside, and what changes will I have to make, so I can hear God speak to me?

Prayer: God, the evil one, the cares and distractions of the world, and my own weakness will seek to distract and deflect me from knowing you more intimately and giving you creative control of my life more and more. Lord, may the Word you sow in my heart and spirit as I read through your Word this year be received in a receptive soul and bear fruit in my life for you every day. Amen.

Day 5: Read John 8.31-32.

Reflection Questions:

A promise is a person’s spoken word. The promise is only as good as the faithfulness and capability of the person who gives it. 1. What does this promise of Jesus mean to you? 2. What does it mean to be Jesus’ “disciple?” How does being his disciple relate to your use of God’s Word? 3. What does it mean for you to “abide” or “remain” in his Word? How does being persistent in God’s Word lead to knowing the truth? What does it mean to be truly free?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I claim your promise! Set me truly free! This year, as I read through the Bible, let me abide in you as you speak your Word to me day by day. Let me truly be your disciple, walking with you through all the chances and choices of life, completely free as I follow you. Amen.

Day 6: Read John 10.1-11.

Reflection Questions:

Sheep know their shepherd’s voice and won’t follow a stranger. Jesus is our Good Shepherd. Not only did he willingly lay down his life for us long ago, but right now he calls us by name. He comes into our life now, speaking and calling us so that we “might have life and have it abundantly.” 1. What causes me to doubt that Jesus would want to speak to me today? Feelings of unworthiness? Doubt in his capability or desire? 2. How do I hear Christ speaking to me today? In his Word as I read and hear it? Through other people of God? In my thoughts, moment by

moment? Which of these are easiest for me to recognize and believe? Which are hardest? Why?

Prayer: God, my Good Shepherd, could you really want to speak with *me*? Do you really care that I have life, and have it abundantly, I who so often ignore or disbelieve your call to me day by day? Yet this is your Word of promise! Lord, lead me to hear your voice amidst the confusion and clamor of my daily life, and lead me to the abundant life I truly long for, as I seek to listen for your voice and follow your call every moment of every day. Amen.

Day 7: Read Revelation 3.19-20.

Reflection Questions:

Every instant, Jesus stands at the door, knocking. Life is a process of hearing him and heeding him. Every instant he calls me to open to him, to hear and heed him. To everyone who listens, who hears him calling and opens to him, he promises an intimate relationship. Even Christ's Word of correction to me is an expression of his love for me, meant to draw me closer, form more fully the new Christ-like nature in me, and cement our relationship more firmly. 1. What is keeping me from opening the door to him? 2. How can I open the door for him to enter wider this week? 3. What correction is God speaking to me at this point in my life?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, keep calling. Keep correcting. Keep inviting me, moment by moment, to deeper relationship with you. As I read your Word daily this coming year, let your voice become clearer, your call louder. Let me listen for you and expect you to speak to me all day, every day. Amen.

