



# 2

A Daily Pursuit

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WHEN  
CAN YOU  
REMEMBER  
BEING  
INCREDIBLY  
THIRSTY?

## The POINT >

Deepen your relationship with God by spending time with Him every day.

### > PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

<sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;

<sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

<sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any

excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

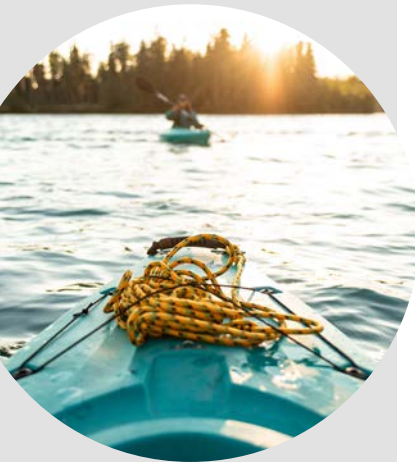
<sup>9</sup>What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.



# THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

## FACT:

Water is one of the most valuable resources on earth, but it costs us very little. The average cost in the US is about \$2 for 1000 gallons—that's 5 gallons for a penny.<sup>1</sup>



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

Our response to God's love is to remain pure in all aspects of life—with our bodies, thoughts, attitudes, actions, and speech—and He empowers us to obey His commands as we live by the Spirit.

I have a friend, Jon, who is an avid outdoorsman, and one of his favorite activities is sea kayaking. Recently, when he was on a trip along the coast of Hawaii, a storm swept in and dragged him out to sea. For 24 hours, John struggled to stay alive as 20-foot waves pounded his little boat, capsizing him repeatedly. When the storm finally subsided, his struggle was only beginning. For three days, he faced blistering sun and sharks seeking to turn over his kayak as rescue planes searched for a tiny dot in the vast Pacific ocean. When they found him 130 miles offshore, he was delirious from dehydration.

We all do a pretty good job of taking care of our physical condition, but we're often not as sensitive to our spiritual needs—too many of us experience spiritual dehydration. The health of our souls depends on drinking from the water that comes only from a relationship with Jesus. Without this, we'll have symptoms of spiritual dehydration: spiritual, emotional, or relational pain; irritability; and believing things that aren't true.

But when we realize we're dry and turn to God, He's happy to replenish us with living water. The cure is as simple as a time of prayer and praise to the One who keeps us going. We need Jesus. Every day.

## PHILIPPIANS 4:4-5

**1** When was the last time you really rejoiced over something?

**2** What's your favorite way of expressing praise to God?

## PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

**3** What are some obstacles to experiencing the joy and peace of God?

**4** Why do we often neglect to bring the little things before God?

**5** How is prayer the answer to worry?



*Joy isn't something that happens by accident. It is a daily decision to choose joy in Christ—regardless of our circumstances. #BSFLsimplicity*



## PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9

**6** How does the world tempt us to think on negative things?

**7** Which of Paul's commands in verses 4-9 are easiest for you? Which are more difficult?

**8** How can we focus our minds on the things that are pleasing to God?



# LIVE IT OUT



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

*Our response to God’s love is to remain pure in all aspects of life—with our bodies, thoughts, attitudes, actions, and speech—and He empowers us to obey His commands as we live by the Spirit.*

Though we all face difficulties in life, as followers of Christ, we have many reasons to rejoice. First and greatest, we have received the gift of salvation. Beyond this, we receive God’s blessings every day as signs of His love and goodness. The world will tempt us to be discontent and to complain about our circumstances. However, in Christ we have all we need and more. Therefore, we’re called to rejoice in Him, to protect our minds from thinking on things that are negative and false, and to devote our minds to what is true and honorable in God’s sight. Our thinking is transformed as we spend time with Jesus in His Word every day.

## >CHRIST

Our relationship with Jesus depends on our choosing to engage with Him continually—every day!

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

**PEOPLE**

FAMILY

COMMUNITY  
& WORLD

### PRAY

Make it a point every day this week to engage with God in prayer.

### GRATEFULNESS

Pay special attention to the blessings God has given you and express gratitude for those good things.

### READ

Get into God’s Word daily. Use the devos or another reading plan to help you focus daily on God’s Word. Journal the things God is teaching you.

### WORSHIP

Make sure not only to focus on the things God does, but who He is. Express your praise to Him.

### DEPENDENCE

Ask God to provide for your needs and ask Him to help you grow in trusting Him.

## > COMMUNITY

Our thinking is influenced in a big way by the people we spend time with. When we allow worldly values to drive our thinking, we will struggle. However, when we choose to engage intentionally with other Christ-followers, we'll grow in godly thinking and living.

**9** Partner with others in your group to support and encourage each other in your daily prayer and reading.



**10** How will you do this? Be specific.

## > CULTURE

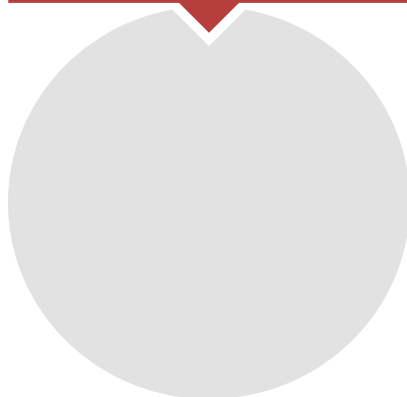
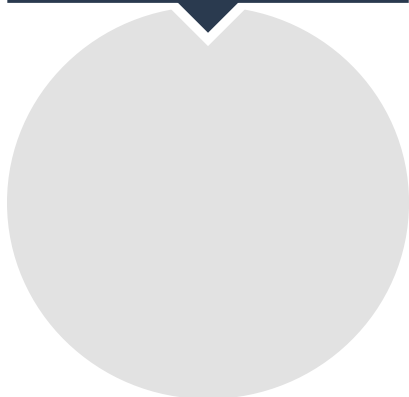
Though we are called out from among the world, God has called us to reach the world. And as we think and live differently, others will take notice, giving us the opportunity to share about the difference Christ makes in our lives.

**11** How will you leverage the following to impact lost friends?

Joy in Christ

Peace from God

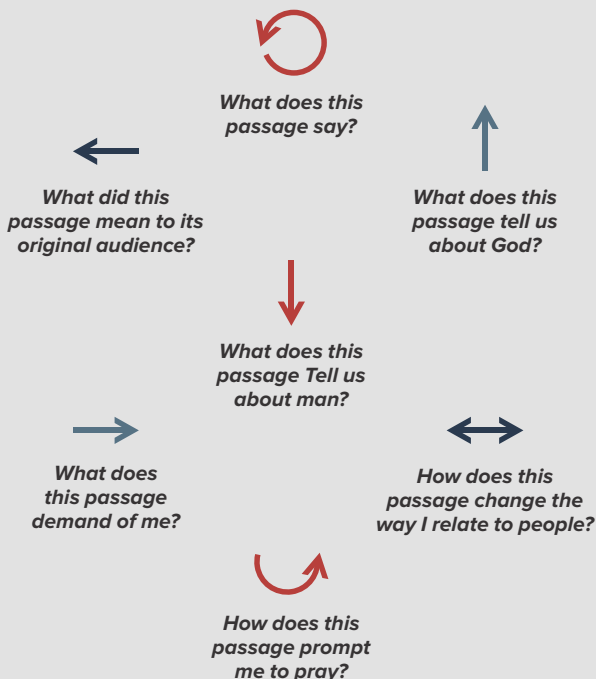
Prayer, Trust, and Gratitude



# DAILY DEVOTIONS



## The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



## Day One

# 1 CHRONICLES 6:7

God made a covenant with His people, Israel, and promised to bless them as long as they obeyed Him. As a sign of His promise, God commanded them to fashion an ark—a chest to hold the stone tablets inscribed with the Ten Commandments. This ark was a sign of God’s blessing, and the “mercy seat,” which sat atop the box, was the place where God dwelled among His people. On an occasion when Israel was defeated in battle, the Philistines captured the ark. The Israelites realized God’s presence and blessing had been removed. Both Israel and the Philistines mistakenly thought controlling the ark meant they controlled God, but the ark was merely a symbol of God’s presence. While the Philistines possessed it, they experienced curses, so they sent it back to Israel. On the day the ark was returned to its rightful place—in the tabernacle in Jerusalem—there was great reason to rejoice. David called for Asaph, a skilled musician, poet, and worship leader, to led the people in giving thanks for God’s promise and presence.

➤ **How have you experienced God’s presence in your life?**

➤ **How do you give thanks and praise to God for His presence?**



## Day Four

# 1 CHRONICLES 6:10

God isn't honored by any external act of obedience when it's not representative of our hearts. In fact, during a confrontation with the Pharisees, Jesus quoted Isaiah about their worthless traditions, declaring their worship was in vain because, though they honored God with their lips, their hearts were far from God (Matt. 15:8-9). God is never honored solely because we lift our voices or our hands, because we come to church or even share with our friends. These things bring honor to God when they serve as a picture of hearts that truly rejoice in God's goodness. The Israelites knew what it was to have God dwell among them, and they knew what it meant to live without God's blessing. When the ark was returned, they had reason to celebrate, and their praises were a true reflection of joyful hearts. Today, because of Jesus, God is in our lives, and God is most fully honored when we are truly thankful and joyful about our relationship with Him.

- **How would you describe the joy you experience about your relationship with God?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- **What will you do to cultivate more joy so God is honored in your life?**

## Day Five

# 1 CHRONICLES 6:11



In Scripture, the face of God refers to His presence. To Israel, God's presence among them was their source of hope, and when God's presence was removed from among them, they wept and mourned (1 Sam. 4:13). Today, we should view it the same way. In fact, we are called not only to desire God's presence, but to actively seek to live in His presence. Thankfully, He's freely given us that opportunity. God no longer sits on the mercy seat on top of the ark. He is enthroned in our hearts, and when we seek Him, we can find Him in the Scriptures, through prayer, and in times of corporate worship. God has made Himself available to us, and to love Him means to pursue a relationship with Him always.

- **How do you seek His face always?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- **How is God calling you to deepen your relationship with Him by pursuing Him more faithfully?**