

# deaf devo

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Through the Bible Series #2

“God’s Special People”

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## Book of Exodus

Moses wrote the book of Exodus. The word “exodus” means going out. Exodus is about God’s people, the Israelites, going out of Egypt.

Earlier this year we studied the book of Genesis. We learned about Adam and Eve, who lived in a beautiful garden. They disobeyed God and were forced to leave the garden. Years later, the earth was filled with sinful people, so God sent a great flood to cover the earth. Only Noah and his family and some animals were saved. Then God called Abraham to move to Canaan. Abraham had a son named Isaac. Isaac had two sons, Jacob and Esau. Jacob had 12 sons.

One of Jacob’s sons, Joseph, became an important ruler in Egypt. Later, Jacob and his family moved to Egypt. The book of Exodus begins after Jacob’s family had been in Egypt for several hundred years. Exodus 1:6-7 tells us about that. ***“Later, Joseph, his brothers, and all the people of that generation died. But the Israelites had many children, and their number grew until the country of Egypt was filled with them.”***

The book of Exodus is very special because it continues the story of God’s love for all people. As we study Exodus, remember that God loves you, His promises always come true and He always wants what is best for you.

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 1:1-7**

Tuesday, May 1

## Pay Attention to God

When Joseph was a ruler in Egypt, all of his family came to live there, too. After many years, there were thousands of Israelites living in Egypt. But there was a new Pharaoh (king) in Egypt. This ruler did not know about Joseph and his family. Exodus 1:10 tells us about Pharaoh’s plan for the Israelites. ***“We must make plans to stop them from growing stronger. If there is war, they might join our enemies, defeat us, and escape from the land!”***

So Pharaoh punished the Israelites by making them slaves. He made life very hard for the Israelites. The slave masters forced the Israelites to build cities where Pharaoh could store grain. But the more the Egyptians forced the Israelites to work, the more children they had. This made the Egyptians more afraid of the Israelites. So the slave masters made the Israelites work even harder.

Pharaoh did not believe in the one true God. He did not treat God’s people with kindness. Later, God punished Pharaoh and the entire nation of Egypt. This is a good lesson for us. We should pay attention to God and His Word, the Bible. Then we will know what we should do and how we can please God.

Will you pay attention to God’s Word today?

– Steve Husting

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 1:8-14**

Wednesday, May 2

## Baby Moses

Yesterday we learned that God's people were slaves in Egypt. One Israelite man and his wife had a son named Moses. As soon as Moses was born, they hid him. Why? Because Pharaoh ordered that all the Israelite baby boys should be killed. He thought this would stop the Israelite nation from growing.

As Moses grew, it became more difficult for his mother to hide him. Moses' mother did not want her baby to die. Exodus 2:3 tells us what Moses' mother did next. ***"She hid him for as long as she could. After three months she made a basket and covered it with tar so that it would float. Then she put the baby in the basket and put the basket in the river in the tall grass."***

Pharaoh's daughter found the basket with Moses inside. She took Moses and raised him as her own son. When Moses grew up, he helped lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. Moses brought the people to a new place to live and gave them God's special laws.

God had a plan for Moses' life. God helped Moses' mother keep him safe. God has a plan for your life, too. He will help you do great things for His kingdom. Ask God to show you how you can serve Him today.

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 2:1-10**

Thursday, May 3

## Answered Prayers

Sometimes we may have many problems. Maybe we have some kind of sickness or family problems or trouble with our job. We may think that these problems will never end. We wonder how we can continue to live with these problems.

The Israelites were slaves in Egypt. They prayed to God and asked Him to help them. Exodus 2:24 tells us that God paid attention to the prayers of the Israelites. ***"God heard their painful cries and remembered the agreement he made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."*** God answered their prayers by sending Moses to help free them from slavery. The Israelites knew that Moses had been sent by God to help them.

When I am facing difficult situations in my life, I pray and ask God to help me. But I need to remember that God will answer my prayers in His time. He will always do what is best for me. I also need to be patient and wait for God's answer. And I need to be willing to accept God's answer, even though it may not be what I want to happen.

Are you facing problems in your life today? Have you asked God to help you? God helped the Israelites, and He will help you, too!

– Bonnie Hall

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 2:16b-25**

Friday, May 4

## Excuses

Moses grew up in Egypt. He saw that Pharaoh treated the Israelites badly and forced them to work as slaves. One time Moses saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite. Moses killed the Egyptian and buried his body. Then Moses was afraid that Pharaoh would find out what happened. So Moses ran away to the land of Midian.

While Moses was living in Midian, he got married and took care of his father-in-law's sheep. One day Moses saw a bush that was burning without being destroyed. God called out to Moses from the bush. God told Moses that He wanted him to help the Israelites in Egypt.

Moses answered God with an excuse. He said that he was not a great man. Moses said he didn't think he could go to Pharaoh and help free the Israelites. In Exodus 3:12 we find God's response to Moses. ***"God said, You can do it because I will be with you. This will be the proof that I am sending you: After you lead the people out of Egypt, you will come and worship me on this mountain."***

Sometimes we make excuses when God wants us to do something for Him. We think that we are not qualified or not smart enough. When God wants us to serve Him, He will be with us — just like He was with Moses!

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 3:1-15**

Saturday, May 5

## Who is God?

There are many Deaf people in the world. They need to learn how to read and write. They need to learn sign language and study things like geography and science. Also they need to learn about new technology and ways to communicate.

But there is something more important that Deaf people need to know. All Deaf people need to know about God and His Son, Jesus. God made all people — Deaf and hearing — to be like Him. God made people to be different than animals. God made us to communicate with Him and praise Him.

Yesterday we learned that God spoke to Moses from a burning bush. Moses asked God who He was. He wanted to know God's name so He could share that with the Israelites. Exodus 3:14 gives us God's answer. ***"Then God said to Moses, 'Tell them, 'I AM WHO I AM.' When you go to the Israelites, tell them, 'I AM' sent me to you.'"*** This shows us that God has always existed and will continue to exist forever.

We need to tell Deaf people around the world about God. We need to tell them that God loves them and that He has prepared a place for them to live forever. Tell someone about God today!

– David Kilda

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 3:7-15**

Sunday, May 6

## Common Things

It is interesting to read the Bible and see how God often used common things to accomplish His plan. God used David's sling to defeat a giant and a feeding box to be the bed for baby Jesus. God used a star to lead the wise men to Bethlehem and five small barley loaves and two fish to feed more than 5000 people.

Throughout Moses' life, God used one common thing to show His power to people — Moses' walking stick. When God called Moses to go back to Egypt, Moses was not sure if the Israelites would follow him. God told Moses to throw his walking stick on the ground. When Moses did this, it became a snake. God told Moses to grab the snake. When Moses did this, the snake became a walking stick again. Exodus 4:5 tells us what God told Moses. ***“Then God said, Use your stick in this way, and the people will believe that you saw the Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”***

God used Moses and his walking stick. And He can use you and the common things you have to bring praise and honor to Him. Ask God to use you and your possessions to reach out to people who need to know about Jesus.

– Naomi Wiederkehr

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 4:1-9**

Monday, May 7

## Aaron

God chose Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. But He did not send Moses alone. God also used Moses' brother, Aaron. Moses thought that he was not a good speaker. So God told Moses that Aaron would help him. In Exodus 4:15-16, God told Moses what he should do. ***“I will tell you what to say. Then you will tell Aaron, and I will help him say it well. I will tell both of you what to do. So Aaron will speak for you. Like God, you will speak to him, and he will tell the people what you say.”***

Aaron also served as a prophet with Moses. Later, after God led His people out of Egypt, Aaron helped Moses lead the Israelites. And God chose Aaron to be the first high priest.

Like Moses, Aaron was not perfect. He made some serious mistakes. One time he built a golden calf for the Israelites to worship. Another time Aaron and his sister, Miriam, challenged Moses' leadership. But Aaron repented of these things, and God forgave him. God let Aaron continue to serve as the high priest until he died.

God knows that it is hard for us to do His work alone. That's when He provides people to help us serve Him. Thank God for the people who help and encourage you in your Christian life!

– Matt Keller

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 4:10-17, 27, 28**

Tuesday, May 8

## Pharaoh's Pride

The Pharaoh that we read about in the book of Exodus was a cruel man. Pharaoh was very proud of his position and his authority. He used his power to be mean to God's people. Pharaoh made them work hard to make bricks and build cities. He even ordered them to make bricks without giving them the straw they needed.

Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh. They asked him to let the Israelites go free. Pharaoh was very proud. Exodus 5:2 tells us what Pharaoh said to Moses and Aaron. ***"But Pharaoh said, Who is the Lord? Why should I obey him? Why should I let Israel go? I don't even know who this Lord is, so I refuse to let Israel go."***

Money and power can sometimes cause people to be proud and to think that they are more powerful than God. Pharaoh thought he was better than God. He thought that he didn't need to obey Him. Because of Pharaoh's pride, God sent ten terrible happenings on Egypt. When Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go free, God caused Pharaoh's army to be drowned in the sea.

God doesn't want us to be proud. He wants us to love, respect and obey Him. When we are humble, God can use us as an example for other people to follow.

– Jolly Herbert

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 5:1-9**

Wednesday, May 9

## Obeying God

Abram was the son of Terah. Abram lived near his father's family in Haran. When Abram was 75 years old, God told him to move to a new place. Genesis 12:1-2 tells us what God said to Abram. ***"The Lord said to Abram, Leave your country and your people. Leave your father's family and go to the country that I will show you. I will build a great nation from you. I will bless you and make your name famous. People will use your name to bless other people."***

Abram obeyed God. He left Haran. Abram took his wife, Sarai, his nephew, Lot, and all his possessions and moved to Canaan. When Abram and his family reached Canaan, God told Abram that He would give that land to his descendants. Abram built an altar there and worshiped God.

Later, Abram moved again. He moved to the mountains between the cities of Bethel and Ai. There Abram built another altar and worshiped God. Each time God told Abram to move, he obeyed and did what God wanted him to do.

Sometimes God may tell us to do something that we don't want to do. We need to obey God — just like Abram obeyed God. When we obey God, He will be with us and bless us.

– Donna Howard

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Genesis 12:1-8**

Thursday, May 10

## God Molds Us

I like to make special things for my family. Sometimes I prepare their favorite foods. Other times I make small gifts for them. It is fun to decide what kinds of things I can make for my family.

This makes me think about how Paul describes God in Romans, chapter 9. He talks about God being like a potter, a person who works with clay. And Paul says that we are like clay. Romans 9:21 tells us more about this comparison. ***“The one who makes the jar can make anything he wants. He uses the same clay to make different things. He might make one thing for special purposes and another for daily use.”***

Paul is saying that we should not question God. He made us. He understands everything about us. We should not tell Him that we want to be something different. God has a plan for all of us. We should let God mold us and make us into what He wants us to be. Then we will bring glory and honor to Him.

I am happy when I can make something special for my family. In the same way, I want God to be pleased with my life. I want Him to mold me and make me to be just like Jesus!

– Eileen Wood

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Romans 9:19-23**

Friday, May 11

## God's Peace

We all have problems. Sometimes people don't like us, and they say bad things about us. That hurts our feelings. We may even get mad at them or be afraid of them. It is not easy to experience God's peace when we have problems with people.

The book of Acts tells us about a special man named Stephen. Stephen became a Christian and faithfully served in the church. He also told people about Jesus. Some of the Jewish religious leaders started arguing with Stephen. Their arguments got worse. Finally, the men took Stephen by force to a meeting of the Jewish high council. Acts 6:15 tells us about that meeting. ***“Everyone there in the council meeting was staring at Stephen. They saw that his face looked like the face of an angel.”***

Stephen was filled with God's peace, and he bravely spoke before the council. He reminded the Jews that they were the people who had killed God's Son. Then the Jewish leaders became very angry. They took Stephen out of the city and stoned him to death.

God was with Stephen, even when he was facing death. God will be with us, too, when we experience persecution and hatred. He will give us His peace, wisdom and love. Ask God to be with you today and help you be strong for Him.

– Pam Davis

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Acts 6:8-15**

Saturday, May 12



# Sinners

The Bible tells us that every person in the world is a sinner. But maybe you think that you are the worst sinner in the world. Maybe you think that no one has ever done as many terrible things as you have done.

Paul felt that he was a terrible sinner. He wrote about this in 1 Timothy 1:15. ***“Here is a true statement that should be accepted without question: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and I am the worst of them.”***

Paul goes on to say that even though he was a terrible sinner, God was patient with him and showed him mercy. God forgave Paul’s sins and helped him live for Jesus. Paul was an example of God’s great forgiveness and love.

If God forgave Paul’s sins, He can forgive your sins, too. God can forgive all the horrible things that you have done in your life. You can have God’s forgiveness because Jesus died on the cross and accepted the punishment for your sins.

God wants you to be sorry for your sins and ask Him to forgive you. God will show you His mercy and forgiveness. He will also help you understand His Word and show you how to be a follower of Jesus. Ask for God’s forgiveness today!

– Gayle Thorn

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**1 Timothy 1:15-17**

Sunday, May 13

# Ten Plagues

God’s people, the Israelites, were slaves in Egypt. God sent Moses to Egypt to talk to Pharaoh and tell him to let the Israelites leave. But Pharaoh was very stubborn. He wanted the slaves to stay and do his work. So Pharaoh refused to free the Israelites.

Exodus 7:5 tells us what God said to Moses. ***“I will punish the people of Egypt, and they will learn that I am the Lord. Then I will lead my people out of their country.”*** God punished Egypt by causing ten terrible things to happen to the people and the land. These terrible things are called “plagues.” These plagues were also miracles because they happened by God’s power. For the next ten days, we will learn about these plagues.

Some people do not understand how God could do these terrible things to the Egyptian people. But God really showed His mercy through these plagues. He could have chosen to completely destroy the Egyptian nation. Instead, God chose to perform His miracles and show His power to the Egyptian people.

Some people today try to say that the ten plagues were things that just happened by accident in nature. God may have used things in nature to cause these plagues, but they truly happened because of His great power. Praise God today because He is so powerful!

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 6:28-7:7**

Monday, May 14

## Water to Blood

The Egyptian people did not worship God. They worshiped many false gods. They worshiped a god of the Nile River, a god who had a head like a frog, and many others. In each of the ten plagues, God showed the Egyptians that their gods were false and that He was the only true God.

The first plague that God brought on Egypt was water turning to blood. God told Moses and Aaron to hit the water of the Nile River with a walking stick. When they did that, the water changed to blood. God also told them to hold the walking stick over the rivers, canals, lakes and every place where water was stored. When Moses and Aaron did that, the water in those places also turned to blood.

Can you imagine how terrible that was? But that was only part of the problem. Exodus 7:21 tells us what happened next. ***“The fish in the river died, and the river began to stink. So the Egyptians could not drink the water from the river. The blood was everywhere.”*** The smell must have been awful! But Pharaoh’s pride and stubbornness kept him from seeing God’s power. He refused to free the Israelites.

Take time today to notice God’s power in the world through a sunrise, a rainstorm, a beautiful flower or an eagle soaring in the sky.

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 7:14-24**

Tuesday, May 15

## Frogs

Seven days later, Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh again. They asked Pharaoh to let the Israelites leave Egypt. But again, Pharaoh refused. So God caused a plague of frogs to happen in Egypt. In Exodus 8:3, God told Moses about this plague. ***“The Nile River will be filled with frogs. They will come from the river and enter your houses. They will be in your bedrooms and in your beds. They will be in the houses of your officials and in your ovens and in your jars of water.”***

Maybe you live in the city where you don’t see many frogs. But think about having frogs everywhere — outside your house and inside your house. Imagine opening a container of water and finding frogs inside. That would be awful!

Finally, Moses and Aaron prayed and asked God to remove the plague of frogs. God stopped the frogs from coming out of the rivers. But then all the frogs died and began to rot and stink. After the first plague, Egypt had dead fish everywhere. And after this plague, they had dead frogs everywhere! But again, Pharaoh was stubborn and refused to free the Israelites.

Sometimes we can be stubborn and refuse to follow God. Examine your life today and find those areas where you are refusing to obey God. Change your heart and follow Him!

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 7:25-8:15**

Wednesday, May 16

## Lice

But God was not finished with Pharaoh yet! He sent a third plague on Egypt. God told Moses and Aaron what to do. Exodus 8:17 tells what happened. ***“They did this. Aaron raised his hand and hit the dust on the ground, and everywhere in Egypt the dust became lice. The lice got on the animals and the people.”***

Many Bible scholars are not sure of the meaning of the Hebrew word in verse 17 that describes these insects. Some think it means lice. Others think it means gnats or fleas. So we don't know for sure what kind of insects they were. Can you imagine having lice or gnats or fleas everywhere around you? That was another terrible plague!

And one more thing probably made this plague even more terrible. Small insects like lice, fleas and gnats are often eaten by frogs. Frogs help control the insect population. But all the frogs were dead, so they couldn't eat the insects. Those insects were everywhere!

God was powerful then, and He is still powerful today. God controls everything in nature. And He has made a wonderful balance so that one kind of insect or animal doesn't grow and fill the earth. Thank God today for His plan for a balanced and orderly world.

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 8:16-19**

Thursday, May 17

## Flies

Pharaoh still refused to obey, so God sent another plague. This was a plague of flies. Exodus 8:24 explains what happened. ***“So the Lord did just what he said. Millions of flies came into Egypt. The flies were in Pharaoh's house, and they were in all his officials' houses. They were all over Egypt. The flies were ruining the country.”*** But God did not allow the flies to go where the Israelites lived.

People who live near cattle feed lots often have a problem with flies during the summer. The flies come into their houses. They fly around their heads and some even bite them. It can be a bad experience. I wouldn't want to have “millions of flies” around me!

God removed the flies, but Pharaoh still refused to free the Israelites. After all these bad things happened, I would think Pharaoh would want to get rid of the Israelites and the plagues. But he kept on being stubborn. Because of Pharaoh's stubbornness, God had more opportunities to show His power over people and nature.

Maybe you are facing some bad situations. God can take those bad situations and use them to show other people His power, love and mercy. Ask God to help you be a witness for Him today.

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 8:20-32**

Friday, May 18

## Animal Disease

The fifth plague that God sent was against animals. God told Moses that He would use His power to cause all the horses, donkeys, camels, cattle and sheep to get sick with a terrible disease. Exodus 9:6 tells us that this really happened. ***“The next morning the Lord did what he said. All the farm animals of the Egyptians died, but none of the animals that belonged to the Israelites died.”*** The Egyptians depended on their animals for food, clothing and transportation and to help with their work.

This plague was like the plague of flies. Only animals that belonged to the Egyptians were affected by the disease. The Israelites’ animals were not harmed. Pharaoh even sent his people to see if the Israelites’ animals died. God clearly showed His power by just punishing the Egyptian people. But still Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go free.

God works in our lives in wonderful ways every day. But sometimes we are like Pharaoh — we refuse to acknowledge that God is powerful and working in us. We may take His blessings for granted, or we may just be too busy to stop and think about the ways God helps us every day. God will bless you today. When you see His blessings, thank Him!

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 9:1-7**

Saturday, May 19

## Boils

The next plague attacked both animals and people. God told Moses and Aaron that there would be a plague of sores or boils. Exodus 9:10 tells us what Moses and Aaron did. ***“So Moses and Aaron took ashes from the furnace and went and stood before Pharaoh. Moses threw the ashes into the air, and the sores began breaking out on people and animals.”***

Sometimes when a plague happened, Pharaoh’s magicians were able to make the same things happen. But the Bible tells us that when this plague happened, the magicians couldn’t stop Moses because they had boils, too!

We may cut our finger, and it becomes infected. It hurts, and we think about the hurt from that cut all day. How would it feel if your body was covered with painful sores? That must have been really terrible! Even the animals that survived the last plague were covered with sores.

The Bible doesn’t tell us that Pharaoh had sores on his body, but he probably did. Maybe he was in a lot of pain. But Pharaoh was still stubborn and refused to pay attention to Moses and Aaron.

Sometimes God allows us to have physical problems so we will realize that we need to depend on Him. Depend on God and His Word today!

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 9:8-12**

Sunday, May 20

# Hail

With the next plague, God said that He would use His full power against Pharaoh, his officials and his people. God wanted the Egyptians to know that there was no other god like Him. God sent a plague of hail, with lightning and thunder.

God warned the Egyptians about this plague and told them to put their animals in safe places. Some Egyptians paid attention, but others ignored the warning and lost everything. Exodus 9:24-25 tells us about this terrible plague. ***“The hail was falling, and lightning was flashing all through it. It was the worst hailstorm that had ever hit Egypt since it had become a nation. The storm destroyed everything in the fields in Egypt. The hail destroyed people, animals, and plants. The hail also broke all the trees in the field.”***

I have seen places that have been hit by hailstorms. Roofs, siding and windows of buildings were destroyed, cornstalks were cut in half and plants and trees were completely stripped of their leaves. This hailstorm was a terrible event for the nation of Egypt.

This time Pharaoh told Moses that he had sinned and that God was right. But when Pharaoh saw that the hail stopped, he became stubborn again. I hope you will not be stubborn with God today. Obey Him and follow His Word.

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 9:13-35**

Monday, May 21

# Locusts

The eighth plague was a plague of locusts. In Exodus 10:5 we read what Moses told Pharaoh about this plague. ***“The locusts will cover the land. There will be so many locusts that you will not be able to see the ground. Anything that was left from the hailstorm will be eaten by the locusts. The locusts will eat all the leaves from every tree in the field.”***

God caused a strong wind to blow all day and night from the east. By the next morning, the wind had brought locusts to Egypt. There were so many locusts flying that the sky became dark. There were no leaves left on any trees or plants in Egypt. These locusts were probably similar to grasshoppers today, but larger and more destructive. Wow! That must have been terrible to experience all those locusts!

Think about all the terrible things that God brought on Egypt — water changing to blood, frogs, lice, flies, animal disease, boils and hail. All of these things worked together to destroy the land and crops in Egypt. By this time, Pharaoh should have been ready to be humble and ask for God’s help. Instead, he continued to be stubborn and ignore God.

There are many people in the world who are like Pharaoh. They refuse to acknowledge God as the one true God. Pray for these people today!

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 10:1-20**

Tuesday, May 22

## Darkness

Have you ever been in a cave where there was no light at all? Maybe you thought that it was so dark you could actually feel the darkness. That's how dark it was in Egypt when God sent the ninth plague. Exodus 10:22-23 describes this plague. ***“So Moses raised his hands into the air and a cloud of darkness covered Egypt. The darkness stayed in Egypt for three days. None of the people could see each other, and no one got up to go any place for three days. But there was light in all the places where the Israelites lived.”***

The ten plagues attacked the Egyptian people's beliefs in their gods and showed that their gods were false. That is especially true with the plague of darkness. One of the most important Egyptian gods was Ra, the sun god. This god was a symbol of Pharaoh and his power. So the plague of darkness was an attack against this god and against Pharaoh.

When the plague was over, Pharaoh again told Moses that he would not free the Israelite slaves. He also told Moses that he never wanted him to come to him again. This led God to bring one last terrible plague on Pharaoh and the Egyptian people.

The plagues showed the Egyptians that their gods were false. In the same way, the Bible shows us our sins. Read the Bible and pay attention to it today!

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Exodus 10:21-29**

Wednesday, May 23

## Death of Firstborn

God told Moses that after one more plague, Pharaoh would force the Israelites to leave Egypt. Moses described this last plague in Exodus 11:4-6. ***“Moses said to the king, “The Lord says, “At midnight tonight, I will go through Egypt, and every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, to the firstborn son of the slave girl grinding grain. Even the firstborn animals will die. The crying in Egypt will be worse than at any time in the past or any time in the future.””***

At midnight, God killed all the firstborn sons and firstborn animals in Egypt. That night someone died in every house in Egypt. But God loved the Israelites. He made a way for them to escape the terrible plague. The firstborn sons in the Israelite homes were saved. Finally, the ten plagues were over. Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron to take all the Israelites and their animals and leave Egypt. God was with Moses and Aaron and helped them lead the people to a new home.

The punishment for our sins is eternal separation from God. But just as God made a way for the Israelites to escape the plague of death, He has made a way for us to escape His punishment. That way is through His Son, Jesus. I hope you are obeying and following Him today!

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Exodus 11:1-10**

Thursday, May 24

## Strong Christians

Many people are thrilled when they reach retirement age. Why? Because they have the freedom to travel and enjoy their hobbies. But getting older has a negative side, too. Often people of this age start having more medical problems. One older person said, "Getting older isn't easy!"

Being a Christian isn't easy either! More and more people around the world are now persecuted for their Christian faith. It seems that people are tolerant of other religions, but continue to harass Christians. If Christians stand strong for God's Word, they are called haters or extremists.

God wants us to obey Him and stand up for what is right, whether we are persecuted or not. 1 Peter 3:14 tells us what happens when we suffer for doing what is right. ***"But you may suffer for doing right. If that happens, you have God's blessing. Don't be afraid of the people who make you suffer; don't be worried."*** Peter also said that we should remain holy and always be ready to share about Jesus with others.

Perhaps you will face some persecution today. Remember to depend on God and not be afraid. God will bless you for being a strong Christian.

– Lynette Denton

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**1 Peter 3:13-17**

Friday, May 25

## "Leap of Faith"

A squirrel sat on a bird feeder and stuffed himself with nuts and seeds. The people who owned the feeder were determined to keep the squirrel away. So they bought a feeder that was labeled "squirrel-proof."

The new bird feeder had an upside-down bowl that was supposed to throw the squirrel off if he jumped on it. Soon after the new bird feeder was installed, a squirrel came close. He sat and watched the feeder sway back and forth in the wind. Then with a big jump, he took off and landed on the underside of the bowl. He wrapped his tail around the top and fed himself upside down!

Some people would say that squirrel took a "leap of faith." He believed that he could jump and land on the feeder. Sometimes in our Christian life, we need to take a "leap of faith." It is very important that our actions show that we have faith in God. Hebrews 11:1-2 explains what faith really is. ***"Faith is what makes real the things we hope for. It is proof of what we cannot see. God was pleased with people who lived a long time ago because they had faith like this."***

No matter what happens to you, you need to keep on believing in God and His Word. Trust God today!

– Dave Lewicki

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Hebrews 11:1-6**

Saturday, May 26

# God Wants Us

God did not need to make people, but He did. God made Adam and Eve and placed them in a beautiful garden. Then when Adam and Eve sinned, God could have left them to die in their sin. Instead, God made a way for people to have a close relationship with Him again.

God's plan was for His Son, Jesus, to come to earth. Ephesians 1:5 explains God's plan. ***"And before the world was made, God decided to make us his own children through Jesus Christ. This was what God wanted, and it pleased him to do it."***

While Jesus lived on earth, He was rejected by His family and friends. People mocked Jesus and called Him a liar. But still God wanted us to be reconciled to Him. Then Jesus was beaten, spit on and hung on a cross to die. God was willing for Jesus to die in our place. Through Jesus, God offered mercy and forgiveness to all people.

God wants you! He wants you to love Him and obey Him. And God wants to forgive your sins and bless you. But most of all, God wants you to live with Him forever. Worship God today and thank Him for wanting you to be His child!

– Bob La Forge

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Ephesians 1:1-12**

Sunday, May 27

# Two Lessons

Jesus was traveling to Jerusalem. He came to a small town. There Jesus met ten men who had a terrible skin disease called leprosy. When the men saw Jesus, they shouted and asked Jesus to heal them.

Jesus told the ten men to go to the Jewish priests. While the men were going to the priests, they were healed. Luke 17:15-16 tells us about one of the ten men. ***"When one of them saw that he was healed, he went back to Jesus. He praised God loudly. He bowed down at Jesus' feet and thanked him. (He was a Samaritan.)"***

This Bible story teaches us two very important lessons. The first lesson is about faith. The men started going to the priests even before they were healed. They had faith that Jesus could heal them. When we pray, we should have faith that God will answer our prayers and do what is best for us.

The second lesson is about thankfulness. Ten men were healed, but only one man came back and thanked Jesus. We should always remember to thank God for blessing us, taking care of us and answering our prayers.

When you pray today, have faith that God will provide for you. And be sure to thank Him for all He has done for you.

– Bonnie Hall

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Luke 17:11-19**

Monday, May 28



## Working Hard for God

It is fun to sit down with family members and friends and remember good things that have happened. We might remember special occasions such as birthdays or Christmas dinners. Or we might remember places we have visited or games we have played.

In 1 Thessalonians 2:9, Paul encouraged the Christians in Thessalonica to remember the work he had done to establish their church. ***“Brothers and sisters, I know that you remember how hard we worked. We worked night and day to support ourselves, so that we would not be a burden to anyone while we did the work of telling you God’s Good News.”***

Paul and his helpers were willing to work hard to support themselves while they preached about Jesus. They did not want anyone to accuse them of being lazy or of being a burden to members of the church. Paul was also honest and kind as he worked with these people.

God has given us the job of telling the Good News about Jesus to other people. We should be like Paul. We need to work hard and show others how they can serve God and live for Him.

– Lynette Denton

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**1 Thessalonians 2:1-12**

Tuesday, May 29

## The Passover

We have learned that God’s people, the Israelites, were slaves in Egypt. Moses told Pharaoh to free the Israelites, but he refused. Then we learned about the ten terrible plagues that happened to the Egyptian people. The last plague was that the firstborn sons in Egypt died.

Before this last plague, Moses explained to the Israelites what would happen. He told them to prepare a special meal called the Passover. In Exodus 12:26-27, Moses told the Israelites that this meal would help them remember what God had done for them. ***“When your children ask you, ‘Why are we doing this ceremony?’ you will say, ‘This Passover is to honor the Lord, because when we were in Egypt, he passed over the houses of Israel. He killed the Egyptians, but he saved the people in our houses.’”***

God wanted His people to always remember the special things He had done for them. God has not rescued us from slavery in Egypt. But He has forgiven our sins and given us salvation through Jesus. The Israelites celebrated the Passover every year to help them remember. In the same way, we should always remember what God has done for us and give Him thanks.

Take time today to praise God and thank Him for salvation through His Son, Jesus!

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Exodus 12:21-28**

Wednesday, May 30

## Waiting

Prayer is the way that we communicate with God every day. Many times God answers our prayers right away. But have you ever prayed and then had to wait a long time for God's answer? Maybe you have prayed and you are still waiting for God to answer your prayer!

Sometimes God makes us wait because what we want isn't best for us. Other times He makes us wait because we are not ready to receive what we have asked for. That reminds me of the Israelites. For many years, they prayed and asked God to free them from slavery. Exodus 12:40-41 tells us how long they had to wait for God to answer their prayers. ***"The Israelites had lived in Egypt for 430 years. After 430 years, to the very day, all the armies of the Lord left Egypt."***

God loved the Israelites, but He made them wait a long time before He rescued them. God's timing is always perfect. He knew just the right time to perform His miracles and free the Israelites from slavery.

Are you waiting for God to answer your prayers? Don't give up! Keep on praying. God will answer your prayers at the right time and in His perfect way.

– Gayle Thorn

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 12:37-42, 51**

Thursday, May 31

## Clouds

Clouds are very interesting. Sometimes they show us that a storm is approaching. Other times it is just fun to look up and watch the clouds. Some clouds may look like an elephant or a crocodile. Others can look like the face of a person or a flower.

We all have seen many different kinds of clouds. But I think none of these clouds can compare with the cloud that led the Israelites as they left Egypt and journeyed to the new land. Exodus 13:21-22 tells us about this cloud. ***"The Lord led the way. During the day, he used a tall cloud to lead the people. And during the night, he used a tall column of fire to lead the way. This fire gave them light so that they could also travel at night. This cloud was always with them during the day, and the column of fire was always with them at night."***

I imagine this cloud was very large and very special. It was easy for the Israelites to see the cloud and follow it. Sometimes I wish that God would use a special cloud to help me know which way I should go in life. But He doesn't do that! Instead, I have God's Word, the Bible, to be my guide through life.

Read and study the Bible today. Pay attention to God's message for you. God's Word will help you stay on the right path in life.

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 13:17-22**

Friday, June 1

## Start Moving!

The Israelites felt trapped! They had been slaves in Egypt for hundreds of years. Finally, Pharaoh had given them their freedom. But as the Israelites were leaving Egypt, Pharaoh changed his mind and started to chase after the Israelites. Pharaoh's army was behind them, and the Red Sea was in front of them!

The Israelites were scared. They started complaining to Moses. They asked Moses why he had brought them out into the desert. They said they could have died peacefully in Egypt. The Israelites felt that they had two choices. They could go back to slavery in Egypt or walk into the Red Sea and drown.

But God had other plans for the Israelites. In Exodus 14:15-16, God told Moses what to do. ***"Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Why are you still crying to me? Tell the Israelites to start moving. Raise the walking stick in your hand over the Red Sea, and the sea will split. Then the people can go across on dry land.'"*** The Israelites walked across the Red Sea on dry land, and the Egyptian army drowned in the sea.

We face problems every day. Often we think we have to solve them alone. Instead, we need to let God take control of our problems. Then we can depend on His strength and start moving!

– Bob La Forge

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 14:1-20**

Saturday, June 2

## Don't Be Afraid!

Yesterday we learned about the Israelites leaving Egypt. They must have been very happy to leave behind their life of slavery. But soon they became scared and doubted that God would take care of them.

Maybe you have felt like the Israelites did. You had a problem and felt frustrated. You tried to solve the problem but couldn't do it alone. Then someone stepped in to help you. Maybe your mother or father or an older brother or a teacher at school took control and solved the problem for you. And you didn't have to do anything at all!

That's exactly what happened with the Israelites. Exodus 14:13-14 tells us what Moses told the Israelites. ***"But Moses answered, 'Don't be afraid! Don't run away! Stand where you are and watch the Lord save you today. You will never see these Egyptians again. You will not have to do anything but stay calm. The Lord will do the fighting for you.'"*** The Israelites stood and watched God perform a miracle for them. The water of the Red Sea parted and made a dry path for them to walk on.

God will help us, too — just like He helped the Israelites. All we need to do is trust Him. Praise God for taking care of you and being with you every day.

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 14:1-20**

Sunday, June 3

## Red Sea Miracle

The Israelites went through the Red Sea on dry land. But the Egyptian army was close behind them. They started following the Israelites on the path through the Red Sea. God made the Egyptians panic. Then their chariot wheels became stuck, and they couldn't control their chariots.

Then God told Moses to raise his hand over the sea. The water came back to its normal level and covered the chariots and the soldiers. The entire army was destroyed. None of them survived! Exodus 14:31 tells us the result of this great miracle. ***"The Israelites saw the great power of the Lord when he defeated the Egyptians. So the people feared and respected the Lord, and they began to trust the Lord and his servant Moses."***

Some people say that this event was not a miracle. They say that the Red Sea was really only about 18 inches deep and that a strong wind blew the water apart. If that is true, I wonder how the entire Egyptian army could be drowned in only 18 inches of water!!

Many people in the world want to stop us from believing in God. They will make up stories and say that the Bible is not true. We need to stay strong and defend God's Word. Always trust God, and always believe His Word!

– Joel Burkum

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 14:21-31**

Monday, June 4

## Amazing God

Just imagine that you were with the Israelites as they walked on dry ground through the Red Sea. Do you see the great wall of water on either side of you? Do you see the fish and other sea creatures swimming in the water around you? That must have been an awesome and terrifying experience for the Israelites!

When the Israelites reached the other side of the Red Sea, they must have been frightened to see the Egyptian army chasing after them. Then they must have been amazed to watch as God caused the Red Sea to flow back and cover the entire Egyptian army.

The Israelites were safe on dry land, and the Egyptians were drowned. Then the Israelites began to sing a song of praise to God. Exodus 15:2 is part of this song. ***"The Lord is my strength. He saves me, and I sing songs of praise to him. He is my God, and I praise him. He is the God of my ancestors, and I honor him."***

We must never forget how powerful and amazing God is! We may not see miracles like the Israelites saw. But we can see God working in our lives every day. Take time to praise God today. Thank Him for being so amazing!

– Jody Bethards

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 15:1-18**

Tuesday, June 5

## Bitter Water

Moses led the Israelites away from the Red Sea. They were happy that God had taken care of them. But soon those same people became angry and started complaining. Why? Because they were thirsty. The Israelites found water, but it was bitter and not good to drink. They thought that God was not taking care of them any more. So the Israelites became angry and complained to God.

Moses prayed and asked God to help them. God showed Moses a large piece of wood and told him to put the wood in the water. Moses obeyed God, and the water became sweet and good to drink.

Then in Exodus 15:26, God gave Moses and the Israelites a command and a promise. ***“He said to him, I am the Lord your God. If you listen to me and do what I say is right, and if you obey all my commands and laws, then I will not give you any of the sicknesses that I gave the Egyptians. I am the Lord who heals you.”*** God wanted the Israelites to continue to obey Him. Then He would take care of them.

We must always obey God, too. We must allow God to help us make decisions. Sometimes life is filled with problems. But if we let God lead us, He will help us and give us His blessings and peace.

– Joel Burkum

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Exodus 15:19-27**

Wednesday, June 6

## God Sees

Most children love to hide. When a child is very young their mother or father will hide their face by covering it with their hands. When they take their hands away, the baby laughs. When children learn to walk, they start hiding behind furniture or out in the backyard. Children love to play hiding games.

But as adults, we need to realize that we cannot hide anything from God. He sees everything and knows everything. God also knows what we think and do. We cannot hide our sins from Him. The writer of Hebrews talks about this in Hebrews 4:13. ***“Nothing in all the world can be hidden from God. He can clearly see all things. Everything is open before him. And to him we must explain the way we have lived.”***

Knowing that God sees everything should not make us afraid. He loves us and wants us to confess our sins. Then He will forgive us. We should be comforted to know that God watches over us and takes care of us.

Whatever you do today, remember that God is watching you. Thank Him and praise Him and do things that bring honor and glory to His name!

– Pam Davis

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Hebrews 4:12-13**

Thursday, June 7

## Don't Doubt God

It's fun to watch a kite as it sails through the sky. If someone on the ground is holding tightly onto the kite, it will not fly away when a strong wind comes. But if the kite is not anchored below, the wind will carry it up and down and finally crash it to the ground below.

As Christians, our faith should be anchored in God and His Word. We should believe what God says and obey it. James 1:6 reminds us that we must not doubt God. ***"But when you ask God, you must believe. Don't doubt him. Whoever doubts is like a wave in the sea that is blown up and down by the wind."***

If our faith is based on people's opinions and things in the world, we will be filled with doubts and confusion. But if our faith is based on God, we can stand strong. Sometimes we may have questions, but we should always search God's Word for the right answers.

Maybe you have some doubts about who God is. Or maybe you have doubts about God's plan of salvation for you. Share these doubts with God. Ask Him to help you trust Him and His Word. God will encourage you and show you proof of His love and power. Don't doubt God. Trust Him today!

– Lynette Denton

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**James 1:1-8**

Friday, June 8

## Think Like Jesus

Everything we experience enters our minds. The things we see or read are the things we think about. When we think about bad things, God is not happy with us. But when we think about good things, God is pleased with us.

As Christians, we should only think about things that please God. In Philippians, chapter 2, Paul teaches us to think about things like encouragement, love, comfort, mercy and kindness. We should not be selfish and only want to please ourselves. Paul sums up what we should do in Philippians 2:5. ***"In your life together, think the way Christ Jesus thought."***

What does that verse mean? How did Jesus think? Jesus thought about what God wanted Him to do. Jesus thought about serving God instead of serving Himself. Jesus was always thinking about other people. The things Jesus thought about pleased God.

What will your thoughts be like today? Will they make God happy or sad? Try to think about things that are good and right and pure. Then God will be pleased with you.

– Gayle Thorn

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Philippians 2:1-11**

Saturday, June 9

## Miriam

Moses had an older brother, Aaron, and an older sister. His sister's name was Miriam. When Moses was a baby, his mother hid him from the Egyptians by putting him in a basket and floating the basket on the Nile River. Miriam was a little girl then. She watched the basket until Pharaoh's daughter pulled it from the water. Then Miriam told Pharaoh's daughter she would find someone to help with the baby. Miriam went and got her mother to help take care of baby Moses.

Later, we learn that Miriam was with Moses and Aaron when they led the Israelites out of Egypt. The Bible says that she was a woman prophet. Exodus 15:20-21 tells us that when the Israelites praised God for leading them through the Red Sea, Miriam was there. ***"Then Aaron's sister, the woman prophet Miriam, took a tambourine. She and the women began singing and dancing. Miriam repeated the words, 'Sing to the Lord! He has done great things. He threw horse and rider into the sea..."***

The Bible does not tell us much about the ways God spoke through Miriam, but we know that He used her to share His Word. God can use us, too, if we are willing to serve Him. Ask God to show you how you can serve Him today!

– Matt Keller

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Exodus 15:19-27**

Sunday, June 10

## Complaining

The Israelites saw the ten plagues that God brought upon the Egyptians. Finally, the Israelites were allowed to leave Egypt. The Israelites also saw God open the water of the Red Sea so they could walk across on dry land.

But as the Israelites traveled in the desert, they had a problem. They did not have enough to eat. So they started complaining. They thought about the food that they had to eat in Egypt. They said it would have been better if God had just killed them in Egypt instead of leading them into the desert to die.

God heard the complaints of the Israelites. He told Moses that He would make food fall from the sky to feed the people. Exodus 16:6 tells us what Moses and Aaron said to the Israelites. ***"So Moses and Aaron said to the Israelites, 'Tonight you will see the power of the Lord. You will know that he is the one who brought you out of Egypt.'"***

Maybe you have grumbled and complained about something that happened at church. Or maybe you have complained about your Christian friends. God does not want you to grumble and complain. Instead, He wants you to be thankful and encouraging. Ask God to help you stop complaining and to show comfort and kindness to others today.

– Vicki Drummond

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Exodus 16:1-10**

Monday, June 11

## Manna

Yesterday we learned that the Israelites complained to God because they did not have enough food. God heard their complaints and sent them a very special kind of food. Exodus 16:31 tells us about this food. ***“The people called the special food ‘manna.’ It was like small white coriander seeds and tasted like thin cakes made with honey.”***

Manna was a miracle that God sent to the Israelites to show that He was with them. Every night, except Friday night, God sent manna to cover the ground where the Israelites were camped. He told them to gather the manna each morning, but only enough for that day. On Friday mornings, they were to gather enough manna for Friday and Saturday, their special day of rest.

But some of the Israelites did not obey God. They gathered more manna than they needed. The next day there were worms in the manna, and it began to stink. God continued to provide manna for the Israelites for 40 years as they traveled to their new home!

God truly blessed the Israelites with this special food. He promised to take care of them, and He did! God blesses us each day, too. We have food, clothing, a place to live, and family and friends. Think about your blessings today and thank God for each one!

– Joel Burkum

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 16:11-36**

Tuesday, June 12

## No Water

The Bible tells us that God did many more miracles for the Israelites as they traveled in the desert. One miracle happened when they were camped at Rephidim. There was no water for the people and animals to drink. So what did the people do? Did they remember how God had taken care of them in the past? No! The Israelites started complaining again. Then they argued with Moses.

Moses was afraid that the Israelites might kill him, so he asked God what he should do. In Exodus 17:5-6 we read what God said to Moses. ***“The Lord said to Moses, ‘Go before the Israelites. Take some of the elders of the people with you. Carry your walking stick with you. This is the stick that you used when you hit the Nile River. I will stand before you on a rock at Horeb. Hit that rock with the walking stick and water will come out of it. Then the people can drink.’”***

Today we can read the Bible and learn that God will take care of us. But when troubles come, we often complain — just like the Israelites. Instead of depending on God to help us through bad times, we complain and whine about what is happening to us.

Maybe you will face some bad times today. Instead of complaining, remember to thank God and depend on Him.

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 17:1-7**

Wednesday, June 13



## Moses' Hands

The Israelites were being attacked by the Amalekites. Moses stood on top of a hill, holding the walking stick that God had given to him. While Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning the battle against the Amalekites. But when Moses lowered his hands, the Israelites started losing the battle.

Why did Moses lower his arms? Because his arms were tired! Exodus 17:12-13 describes what Aaron and Hur did to help Moses. *“After some time, Moses’ arms became tired. So they put a large rock under Moses for him to sit on. Then Aaron and Hur held Moses’ hands in the air. Aaron was on one side of Moses and Hur was on the other side. They held his hands up like this until the sun went down. So Joshua and his men defeated the Amalekites in this battle.”*

God chose Moses to be the leader of His people. But Moses needed help. So Aaron and Hur supported and helped Moses win the battle against the Amalekites. Aaron and Hur willingly served Moses.

Be like Aaron and Hur. Support and encourage your preacher. Pay attention to your Bible teacher. Share your possessions with other Christians. Always be ready and willing to serve God and His leaders.

– Chad Entinger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 17:8-16**

Thursday, June 14

## Jethro

Jethro was Moses’ father-in-law. After Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, Jethro came to meet Moses. Jethro watched Moses judge the Israelites and make decisions for them. He saw that the work was very hard for Moses to do alone.

So Jethro gave Moses some advice. We can find Jethro’s advice in Exodus 18:17-18. *“But Moses’ father-in-law said to him, This isn’t the right way to do this. It is too much work for you to do alone. You cannot do this job by yourself. It wears you out. And it makes the people tired, too.”* Jethro told Moses to find good men and make them rulers over the people. These rulers would judge the people. Then Moses would only need to decide the most important cases.

Jethro was a wise man. He used his wisdom to help Moses do what God wanted. He did not tell Moses to change God’s plan. Instead, he told Moses the best way to do the work God wanted him to do.

There are certain things that God wants us to do for Him. So He gives us His wisdom to find the best way to do what He wants. And sometimes God sends someone else with wisdom who can give us good advice.

Think about the ways you can serve God today. Try to find the best way to do those things for God.

– Matt Keller

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 18:1-27**

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Friday, June 15

## Thunder

Thunder is an amazing thing. We can experience thunder by feeling its vibrations or hearing its rumble. For many years thunder has been a symbol of great power and authority.

God told Moses that He wanted to meet with the people of Israel. Moses helped the people prepare themselves for this special meeting with God for two days. Then on the third day, God came down to Mount Sinai. Exodus 19:16 describes this event. ***“On the morning of the third day, a thick cloud came down onto the mountain. There was thunder and lightning and a very loud sound from the trumpet. All the people in the camp were frightened.”***

Wow! The mountain was covered with smoke, the trumpet sound became louder and louder and God’s voice was like thunder. That must have been an awesome display of God’s power. God’s power was so great that He told Moses to warn the people to not come too close to the mountain. If they came too close, they would die.

God is very loving and kind. But He is also great and powerful. We can read about God’s power all throughout the Bible. And we can see God’s power today through creation. Take time today to look around you. Think about God’s power and thank Him for everything He has made.

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 19:10-19**

Saturday, June 16

## Live Wisely

The writer of Psalm 90 talks about time and the shortness of our life on earth. Psalm 90:10 gives a summary of life. ***“We live about 70 years or, if we are strong, 80 years. But most of them are filled with hard work and pain. Then, suddenly, the years are gone, and we fly away.”***

Some people are able to enjoy their families and serve God for many years. But often they look back over their lives and wonder if they have used their time wisely for God. In the New Testament, Paul warned Christians to not be foolish with their lives. Instead, he encouraged them to obey God and live wisely.

If we live wisely, we need to do what God wants us to do. What does God want us to do? He wants us to spend time with our family and friends — loving them, sharing with them and encouraging them. God also wants us to work hard at our jobs and to reach out to the people we work with. But most of all, God wants us to spend time with Him — loving Him, praising Him, praying to Him, reading His Word and obeying Him. If we do those things, we will be living wisely.

Think about your life today. Are you spending time with God? Are you living wisely for Him?

– Donna Howard

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Psalm 90:10-12**

Sunday, June 17

## God's Word

There are many problems in the world today. Parents are worried about their children. They want their children to love and obey God. But there are so many things in the world to distract them from following Jesus.

Children need to know and obey God's Word. They need to learn Bible verses and remember them. Then, when they are tempted to follow the world, these verses will encourage them and help them stay close to God.

Paul wrote about God's Word in 2 Timothy 3:16-17. ***"All Scripture is given by God. And all Scripture is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and teaching the right way to live. Using the Scriptures, those who serve God will be prepared and will have everything they need to do every good work."***

The best thing you can do for children is to help them explore and learn from God's Word. Share the Bible with your children at bedtime. Tell your grandchildren how the Bible has helped you in life. Teach a children's Bible study or Sunday School class. Find a way to help the younger generation become strong and effective Christians!

– Eileen Wood

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**2 Timothy 3:14-17**

Monday, June 18

## Eternal Glory

In the New Testament Paul tells us some of the ways he suffered as he shared the Gospel — beatings, being put in prison, no food, no sleep. These things could have caused Paul to give up serving Jesus. But Paul didn't give up. He continued to faithfully share the Good News about Jesus

Paul explains why he didn't give up in 2 Corinthians, chapter 4. First, Paul didn't give up because he was trying to please God, not people. Second, Paul was encouraged that Jesus was living and working in him. And third, Paul was sure that all the suffering was nothing compared to the glory of living forever with God. Paul summed this up in 2 Corinthians 4:17. ***"We have small troubles for a while now, but these troubles are helping us gain an eternal glory. That eternal glory is much greater than our troubles."***

We may suffer persecution as we tell others about Jesus. We may not be beaten or thrown in prison like Paul, but some people may make fun of us or turn away from us if we follow Jesus. We can be encouraged by knowing that God will be with us to help us and protect us.

Stand strong for God and His Word today. And remember that God's eternal glory is much greater than your troubles!

– Steve Husting

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**2 Corinthians 4:1-18**

Tuesday, June 19

## Commandments (1)

The Ten Commandments are laws that God gave to the Israelites. We can read these rules in Exodus, chapter 20, and again in Deuteronomy, chapter 5. The Ten Commandments were written on pieces of stone by God Himself. God told the Israelites to save the Ten Commandments and keep them in the Box of Agreement to help remind them that He was always with them.

Some people call the Ten Commandments “God’s rules of common sense.” The first four commandments talk about our relationship with God. The next six commandments talk about our relationships with other people.

Exodus 19:10-11 tells us that God told Moses to prepare the people to receive these special laws. ***“And the Lord said to Moses, Today and tomorrow you must prepare the people for a special meeting. They must wash their clothes and be ready for me on the third day. On the third day, the Lord will come down to Mount Sinai. And all the people will see me.”***

We will look at the Ten Commandments over the next few days. As we study these laws together, pray that God will show you how you can have a good relationship with Him and with other people.

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 19:10-25**

Wednesday, June 20

## Commandments (2)

Today we will talk about the first two commandments. Both of these laws teach us about how we should worship God. These two commandments are found in Exodus 20:3-4. God said, ***“You must not worship any other gods except me. You must not make any idols. Don’t make any statues or pictures of anything up in the sky or of anything on the earth or of anything down in the water.”***

God said in the first commandment that we should not worship any other gods. Many people around the world worship other gods. Usually these people bow down to a statue or a picture of their god. But anything that we think is more important than God can become a “god” to us. Maybe we worship our house, our car or our family. Those things can become our gods.

In the second commandment, God said that we should not make any idols. We should not worship any man-made statue or picture. But we can worship God in many ways — praying, singing, fellowshiping, and reading the Bible.

Why did God make these laws? Because He wants people to worship only Him. And God has promised to bless people who worship Him. Worship and serve the one true God today!

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 20:1-7**

Thursday, June 21

## Commandments (3)

The third commandment is about God's name. This commandment is found in Exodus 20:7. ***"You must not use the name of the Lord your God to make empty promises. If you do, the Lord will not let you go unpunished."*** Some people call this "taking God's name in vain," and others call it swearing. Whatever you call this, it means showing disrespect for God's name.

Think about someone you respect — maybe your pastor or your grandmother. You would not use your pastor's name or your grandmother's name in a bad way. It is the same with God. If we love and respect Him, we will be careful how we use His name.

When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, He said that God's name should always be kept holy. Every day we can see on TV and social media that people use God's name as an expression of surprise or a swear word. That is not showing respect for God's holy name.

What about you? Do you respect God and use His name in a good way? Or do you use God's name as a swear word? Show God how much you love Him by keeping His name holy every day!

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 20:1-7**

Friday, June 22

## Commandments (4)

God's fourth law is about the Sabbath Day. The Sabbath Day was a special day of rest and worship for the Jews. The Sabbath Day is the seventh day of the week (Saturday). We can find this commandment in Exodus 20:10. ***"But the seventh day is a day of rest in honor of the Lord your God. So on that day no one should work — not you, your sons and daughters, or your men and women slaves. Even your animals and the foreigners living in your cities must not work!"***

This commandment is based on how God made the world. God worked six days to create the world. On the seventh day, God rested. God made the Sabbath Day a very special day of rest and worship for His people.

Most Christians around the world do not celebrate the Sabbath Day as a special day of worship. Instead, they worship on Sunday, the first day of the week. It is good for all Christians to have a day when they worship with other Christians. When we worship God and fellowship with other Christians, we receive strength to help us through the week. Also, our bodies need rest. We can be healthier by taking time to rest and relax.

Thank God for creating the world around you. Remember to take time each week to rest from your work and worship Him.

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 20:1-7**

Saturday, June 23

## Commandments (5)

The fifth commandment is found in Exodus 20:12. This commandment begins a section where God gives us laws about our relationships with other people. This commandment is about parents and children. ***“You must honor and respect your father and your mother. Do this so that you will have a full life in the land the Lord your God gives you.”*** When Paul wrote to the church in the city of Ephesus, he said this is the first commandment that has a promise with it. If you respect your mother and father, God promises to bless your life.

We can show respect for our parents in many different ways. If you are a child, your respect may be obeying your parents. If you are older, your respect may be keeping in touch with your parents and thanking them for raising you. Or if your parents are elderly, your respect may be taking care of them — like they took care of you when you were young.

We can see every day on the news that some fathers and mothers neglect and abuse their children. That is very sad. But most parents love their children and take good care of them.

Take time today to thank God for your father and your mother. Even if you don't have a close relationship with your parents, you can still find ways to show them your love and respect.

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 20:8-17**

Sunday, June 24

## Commandments (6)

The next commandment is about murder. We read this law in Exodus 20:13. ***“You must not murder anyone.”*** This seems easy to understand. Murder means a killing that is against the law. Maybe I am very angry with someone. I am so angry, that I want them to die. So I kill them. That is murder.

Some people, however, wonder if murder means killing people in war or killing people because of crimes they have done. Reading the Bible can help us understand more about this. When the Israelites came into their new land, God told them that He did not want them to live with people who did not follow Him. So, when the Israelites went into Jericho, God told them to kill all the people except for Rahab and her family. Killing the people in Jericho was not murder.

God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments. He also gave them many other laws. Some of these laws said that the punishment for certain crimes is death. For example, if an Israelite worshiped a false god, he was to be stoned to death. This is also not murder.

God hates murder. That is why He gave the Israelites a commandment about it. Imagine what our world would be like today if all people obeyed this command!

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 20:8-17**

Monday, June 25

## Commandments (7)

Adultery is when a married person has sex with someone who is not their husband or wife. The seventh law that God gave the Israelites talks about adultery. This commandment is found in Exodus 20:14. ***“You must not commit adultery.”***

Many people in the world today think that adultery is okay. TV shows and social media joke about it. But God’s law has not changed since He gave it to the Israelites. Adultery is still wrong.

One time Jesus was teaching His followers about God’s commandments. Jesus said that a man who looks at a woman and wants to sin with her has already sinned. Jesus said that even thinking about committing adultery is wrong!

As Christians we need to be careful about the TV shows and movies that we watch, the articles we read in magazines and things that we look at on the Internet. God wants us to have pure thoughts. We cannot have pure thoughts if we are constantly filling our minds with sinful thoughts.

Ask God to help you avoid situations where you may be tempted to sin. Read God’s Word and fill your mind with pure thoughts today!

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 20:8-17**

Tuesday, June 26

## Commandments (8)

Today we will learn about the eighth and ninth commandments. We can read these commandments in Exodus 20:15-16. ***“You must not steal anything. You must not tell lies about other people.”***

These two commandments seem very simple. Many people, however, think that these laws mean “do not steal anything that is *valuable*” and “do not tell *big* lies.” Let’s look closely at these commandments and see what they mean.

God did not say that it is okay to steal a piece of gum from the grocery store. God did not say that it is okay to steal paper and pencils from the office where you work. Many people think that stealing these things is okay because they are not valuable. God made it clear — stealing is a sin. Stealing a penny is just as bad as stealing \$1,000,000!

Some people believe that lies can be divided into two groups — little lies and big lies. All lies are the same to God. If you lie about why you arrived at work late, it is the same as lying to the government on your income tax return. A lie is a sin, no matter how big or little you think it is.

God loves you and wants you to obey His laws. Ask Him to help you get rid of sin in your life.

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 20:8-17**

Wednesday, June 27

## Commandments (9)

The tenth law that God gave to His people is about wanting things that belong to another person. Exodus 20:17 tells us this last commandment. ***“You must not want to take your neighbor’s house. You must not want his wife. And you must not want his men and women servants or his cattle or his donkeys. You must not want to take anything that belongs to another person.”***

We should not want the things that belong to someone else. This commandment is about having an attitude of satisfaction. If we are satisfied with what we have, we will not want what belongs to another person.

If you are not satisfied with the things you have, you might want to have a bigger house, a newer car or fancier clothes. Instead of being dissatisfied, you should be thankful that your home is warm in the winter. You should be thankful that your car takes you to work every day. And you should be thankful for the clothes that you have. Wanting something that belongs to someone else is the opposite of thankfulness.

What about you? Are you always wanting the things that your friends have? God can help you be satisfied and thankful for what you have.

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 20:8-17**

Thursday, June 28

## Commandments (10)

For the past nine days we have talked about the Ten Commandments that God gave to the Israelites. All of these laws are important. Obeying these commandments will help us have a good relationship with God and with other people. But maybe you are wondering which commandment is the most important.

One day a Jewish expert on God’s laws asked Jesus which commandment was the most important. Matthew 22:37-40 gives us Jesus’ answer. ***“Jesus answered, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and most important command. And the second command is like the first: ‘Love your neighbor the same as you love yourself.’ All of the law and the writings of the prophets take their meaning from these two commands.”*** In these verses, Jesus gave us a summary of the Ten Commandments — love God and love other people.

God gave the Ten Commandments to the Israelites to help them. God wanted them to be happy and satisfied. But when the Israelites did not obey these laws, they were not happy. God knows that if we obey His commandments, we will be happy. Remember that God always knows what is best for His children!

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Matthew 22:34-40**

Friday, June 29



## God's Promise to You

Some people are afraid that they can't live the way God wants them to. So these people will not accept Jesus as their Savior and let Him control their lives. They let their fear stop them from serving God.

God understands that we all make mistakes. When we become a Christian, God doesn't expect us to obey Him without help. He knows that we can't do it alone. We need to trust God to help us live for Him. Paul talked about this in 2 Timothy 1:12. ***"And I suffer now because of that work. But I am not ashamed, because I know the one I have put my trust in. And I am sure that he is able to protect what I have put into his care until that day."***

When we accept believe in Jesus and obey Him, God forgives our sins and helps us do what He wants. God gives us His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit leads us and helps us follow God. Our old life of sin is gone, and we begin to live God's way. God's Spirit will protect us from future temptations and strengthen us. God has promised to do all that for you!

God always keeps His promises. And He will keep His promise to you. Believe in Jesus and obey Him. Then trust God to lead you in your new life with Him.

– Gayle Thorn

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**2 Timothy 1:8-14**

Saturday, June 30

## Be Happy!

A pastor told his congregation a story about his wife. As she was driving their two-year-old daughter to day-care, the little girl sighed and said, "Oh man! Oh man!" That little girl was not feeling happy about going to day-care that day.

Sometimes we have a negative attitude like that little girl had. We grumble and complain about doing things for God. How do you feel on Sunday morning? Do you look forward to a time of worshiping with other Christians? Or do you think up excuses why you can't go to church? How do you feel when a brother or sister in Christ needs help? Are you excited to help them? Or do you hope that someone else will help them?

The writer of Psalm 100 was very happy to worship and serve God. In Psalm 100:4 he encourages us to have a good attitude about serving God. ***"Come through the gates to his Temple giving thanks to him. Enter his courtyards with songs of praise. Honor him and bless his name."***

How will you feel the next time you have an opportunity to worship God or serve other Christians? I hope you will be happy and eager to serve and worship God with your whole heart!

– Norma Mezoë

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Psalm 100:1-5**

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Sunday, July 1

## God's Power

In the Bible we read about people that God asked to serve Him. Some of these people gave excuses why they could not serve God. Other people started serving God and gave up. But then there were people who had some doubts but yet believed God could help them be strong.

Abraham sometimes doubted that God would give him a son. Moses was not sure that he could speak to Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Maybe Abraham and Moses thought that their situations seemed impossible. But both of them believed in God's power and did their best to serve Him.

Another person in the Bible who was willing to serve God was Mary. The angel Gabriel came to Mary and told her that she would have a son. Mary expressed confusion to Gabriel in Luke 1:34. ***"Mary said to the angel, 'How will this happen? I am still a virgin.'"*** The angel explained that this would happen through God's power. Mary was willing to let God use her to serve Him in a wonderful way.

We all have doubts, weaknesses and excuses. But when God asks us to do something, we should trust and obey Him. How will you serve God today? Will you be a willing servant and allow God to use you for His kingdom?

– Bob La Forge

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Luke 1:29-38**

Monday, July 2

## All Your Life

God gave Moses many rules for the Israelites. These rules taught the people how to serve God and get along with each other. Some of these rules were about slaves. If an Israelite bought a slave, that person would stay with him for six years. After that, the slave was free.

But if a slave loved his master, he could choose to continue working for him. Exodus 21:6 tells us about that. ***"If this happens, the master will bring the slave before God. The master will take the slave to a door or the wooden frame around the door and pierce the slave's ear using a sharp tool to show that the slave will serve the master for all his life."***

The Bible often describes Christians as slaves to God. This means that Christians have given themselves completely to God. A Christian will serve God and obey Him. But a true Christian does not serve God for a short time and then stop. Christians choose to serve God all of their lives.

If you are a Christian, you made a promise to serve God all your life. That means you can't serve Him today and then decide to not serve Him tomorrow. We are all sinners — we all make mistakes. But we still need to try and serve God every day. Decide today to be God's servant all your life!

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 21:1-6**

Tuesday, July 3

## Follow the Leader

My friend has a dog named Larry. Recently my friend got another dog. This dog is a puppy, and his name is Brutus. Larry and Brutus share a kennel. Brutus follows Larry everywhere he goes.

But Larry has always had the bad habit of running away. Sometimes he likes to escape the yard and visit the neighborhood dogs. So now when Larry runs away, Brutus follows close behind him. They are playing a game of “follow the leader.”

Sometimes we play “follow the leader,” too. We may try to do what our friends do or be like people we see on TV. God knew that His people, the Israelites, liked to follow the people in other nations. Exodus 23:2 tells us one of the laws He gave to the Israelites. ***“Don’t do something just because everyone else is doing it. If you see a group of people doing wrong, don’t join them. You must not let them persuade you to do wrong things — you must do what is right and fair.”***

As Christians, Jesus should be our only leader. Other people can lead us to sin and fall away from God. But if we keep paying attention to Jesus and His Word, He will lead us in the right way. Ask Jesus to be your leader today!

– Anonymous

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 23:1-9**

Wednesday, July 4

## Respect Older People

For many years, children were taught to respect older men and women. But today it seems that many children are not taught to honor older people. That is sad! Older people are very important, and we can learn a lot from them.

In many cultures, the older men make the decisions and rule the people. That was how it was with Israel. God told Moses to gather Aaron, his sons and the seventy elders of Israel at Mount Sinai. These men were probably the oldest and wisest Israelites. All the people respected them.

Exodus 24:9-10 tells us what these men experienced. ***“Then Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and the 70 elders of Israel went up the mountain. On the mountain, these men saw the God of Israel. He was standing on something that looked like blue sapphires, as clear as the sky!”*** These men were given a special honor. The people of Israel respected them.

I encourage you to teach your children and your grandchildren to show respect for the older generation. Teach them to be kind to elderly people. And give these older people opportunities to share their knowledge and experience with young people. God will be pleased with this!

– Diana French

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 24:1-18**

Thursday, July 5

## Clothing

Maybe you have told someone, “I have nothing to wear.” Usually that means that you can’t decide what to wear. You probably have a closet full of clothes, and some of those clothes may not even fit you any more.

For most of us, we have plenty of clothes to wear. We may even be able to give away some of our used clothes to ministries who send them to needy people in foreign countries. It is good when we share the blessings that God has given us.

In Matthew, chapter 6, Jesus taught His followers an important lesson about clothing. These people were worried about what they would eat, drink or wear. Here is what Jesus said about clothing in Matthew 6:28-29. ***“And why do you worry about clothes? Look at the wildflowers in the field. See how they grow. They don’t work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that even Solomon, the great and rich king, was not dressed as beautifully as one of these flowers.”***

Jesus told these people not to worry about clothing. Why? Because God knew exactly what they needed. God knows what we need, too. If we try to obey God and do what He wants, He will provide all that we need. So don’t worry today. Instead, give thanks to God for what He has given to you!

– Pam Davis

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Matthew 6:25-34**

Friday, July 6

## Why Are You afraid?

Jesus and His followers spent many hours on Lake Galilee. Sometimes Jesus’ followers went fishing. Other times they traveled from one side of the lake to the other.

One time they were in a boat on the lake when a bad storm began. It was very windy, and waves were coming up over the boat. Jesus’ followers were afraid. Where was Jesus? He was asleep in the boat!

Jesus’ followers woke Him up. They told Jesus that they would drown and asked Him to save them. Matthew 8:26 tells us Jesus’ reply. ***“Jesus answered, ‘Why are you afraid? You don’t have enough faith.’ Then he stood up and gave a command to the wind and the water. The wind stopped, and the lake became very calm.”***

Sometimes we may face “storms” in our lives. These storms may be sickness, death, financial troubles or family problems. Often we think that we must face these things alone. But Jesus is always with us. And He is saying, “Why are you afraid? I am with you. I am here to help you.”

You may face a stormy time in your life today. Remember that you are not alone. Jesus is with you. Trust Him to take care of you. Jesus will always do what is best for you.

– Jack Provines

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Matthew 8:23-27**

Saturday, July 7

## Holy Tent (1)

God promised the Israelites He would free them from slavery in Egypt, be their God and bring them to a new land. That is what the book of Exodus is about. Chapters 1-18 tell us how God freed the Israelites from slavery. In chapters 19-24, God makes the Israelites His special people and gives them His laws. Finally, in chapters 25-40, God commands the Israelites to build a Holy Tent where He could come and live among them.

Exodus 24:16 tells us what happened when Moses met with God on the mountain. ***“The Glory of the Lord came down on Mount Sinai. The cloud covered the mountain for six days. On the seventh day, the Lord spoke to Moses from the cloud.”*** God’s glory is the way that He appeared to Moses. And God needed a place where His glory could live among the Israelites. So He told Moses to build a Holy Tent.

The Holy Tent was a movable meeting place where God could fellowship and communicate with His people. The Holy Tent is sometimes called the Tabernacle or the Tent of Meeting. For the next nine days we will look at God’s plan for the Holy Tent and its furnishings.

God has always provided a way for people to be close to Him. He loves you and wants you to be close to Him today.

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 24:9-18**

Sunday, July 8

## Holy Tent (2)

God gave Moses specific instructions on how to build the Holy Tent. In Exodus 25:8-9 we can read what God told Moses. ***“The people will build a holy place for me. Then I can live among them. I will show you what the Holy Tent and everything in it should look like. Build everything exactly as I show you.”***

The Holy Tent was made from very expensive materials — gold, silver, bronze, special woods and fine cloths. Today those materials would cost millions of dollars! Moses gathered the materials by simply asking the Israelite people to give. They were very willing to give. In fact, the people gave so much that later Moses had to tell them to stop giving!

The Holy Tent and its courtyard were in the center of where the Israelites camped. The twelve tribes of Israel camped around this courtyard each time they stopped. Inside the courtyard was a structure that was divided into the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. Soon we will learn about the furnishings in these places.

God’s plan for the Holy Tent was perfect. God has a plan for your life, too. Give Him your life and serve Him today!

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 25:1-9**

Monday, July 9

## Holy Tent (3)

The first piece of furniture in the courtyard of the Holy Tent was the altar for burnt offerings. It was made from acacia wood and covered with bronze. This altar was the most-used piece of furniture in the Holy Tent. The priests used this altar every day to offer sacrifices to God.

God gave Moses the exact plan for building the altar. Exodus 27:6-7 tells us that God even provided a way to carry the altar. ***“Use acacia wood to make poles for the altar, and cover them with bronze. Put the poles through the rings on both sides of the altar. Use these poles for carrying the altar.”***

God wanted to be near the Israelites. But first, the people had to have their sins forgiven. So God required the Israelites to bring animals to be sacrificed on the altar for burnt offerings. Only a perfect animal was good enough to be sacrificed there. God accepted the animal sacrifices as a way to forgive the sins of the people.

When Jesus died on the cross, His sacrifice covered all sins — past, present and future. After Jesus died, no animal sacrifices were needed. Jesus is our perfect sacrifice. When we follow and obey Him, His blood forgives our sins and keeps us close to God.

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Exodus 27:1-8**

Tuesday, July 10

## Holy Tent (4)

Another piece of furniture in the courtyard of the Holy Tent was the washing bowl. This was the place where the Israelite priests washed their hands and feet. Exodus 30:20 tells us about this. ***“Every time they enter the Meeting Tent, they must wash with that water so that they will not die. They must also wash every time they come near the altar to burn incense or to offer gifts to the Lord.”***

The washing bowl was made of bronze and covered with bronze mirrors. Perhaps the priests used these mirrors to make sure they were clean. The washing bowl was placed between the altar of burnt offerings and the entrance to the Holy Place.

The Israelite priests needed to have their bodies clean when they came before God. In the same way, we need to be clean before we can be close to God. Being clean before God means having our sins forgiven. The only way to have our sins forgiven is through Jesus. When our sins are forgiven, we can have a right relationship with God.

Thank God today for His plan of salvation and forgiveness through His Son, Jesus.

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Exodus 30:1-21**

Wednesday, July 11

## Holy Tent (5)

The first item of furniture in the Holy Place was the lampstand. Exodus 25:31 describes how the lampstand was made. ***“Then you must make a lampstand. Use pure gold and hammer it to make the base and the shaft. Make flowers, buds, and petals from pure gold. Join all these things together into one piece.”***

The lampstand must have been very beautiful! It was decorated with flowers that looked like almond flowers. The lampstand was to give light for the Holy Place.

Sometimes people call this lampstand a golden candlestick. But really it was a stand that held seven oil lamps. Olive oil was burned in these lamps. It was the job of the priests to trim the wicks in the lamps, fill them with oil and keep them lit at all times.

Light is mentioned many times in the New Testament, too. Jesus called Himself the “light of the world.” And He said that Christians should be “light” in the dark world of sin.

God wants every Christian to be a “light” for other people. We can do this when we share the Good News about Jesus and when we show God’s love and goodness to people that we meet each day. Be a “light” for Jesus today!

– Jo Krueger

***Suggested Bible Reading***

***Exodus 25:31-40***

Thursday, July 12

## Holy Tent (6)

Another piece of furniture in the Holy Place was a table. This table was made from acacia wood and covered in pure gold. The plates, spoons, pitchers and bowls that were used on this table were also made of gold.

Exodus 25:30 tells us how this table was used. ***“Put the special bread before me on the table. It must always be there in front of me.”*** The priests placed twelve loaves of bread on this table. These loaves represented the twelve tribes of Israel. The priests who served in the Holy Place ate this bread. Every Sabbath day (Saturday), the priests removed any leftover bread and put out new bread.

The bread on this special table reminded the Israelites that God always took care of them. After they left Egypt, God fed them for many years with manna. God provided for His people. They always had enough to eat.

Jesus called Himself “the bread that gives life.” Just as we need to eat bread and other foods to stay alive, we need Jesus to stay alive spiritually. You need Jesus today. Learn about Him and His plan of salvation from God’s Word, the Bible. And thank Jesus for making a way so you can live forever with Him!

– Jo Krueger

***Suggested Bible Reading***

***Exodus 25:23-30***

Friday, July 13

## Holy Tent (7)

The last piece of furniture in the Holy Place was the altar of incense. It was also made from acacia wood and covered with gold. The altar was set outside the curtain that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.

Exodus 30:7 tells us what Aaron, the High Priest, had to do with the altar of incense. ***“Aaron must burn sweet-smelling incense on the altar every morning. He will do this when he comes to care for the lamps.”***

This incense was a special mixture. Nothing else could be burned on this altar. When this special incense burned, its sweet-smelling smoke was pleasing to God.

In the book of Revelation, John tells us that burning incense represents the prayers of God’s people. God wants us to pray to Him. He wants us to praise Him and tell Him our needs. Our prayers are pleasing to God, just like the incense burned in the Holy Tent.

Be sure to take time to talk with God today. He loves you and wants you to share your praises and requests with Him. And don’t forget to thank God for all He has done for you.

– Jo Krueger

***Suggested Bible Reading***

***Exodus 30:1-10***

Saturday, July 14

## Holy Tent (8)

A curtain in the Holy Tent separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. This curtain was made from heavy woven cloth. Exodus 26:31 describes this curtain. ***“Use fine linen and make a special curtain for the inside of the Holy Tent. Use blue, purple, and red yarn and sew pictures of Cherub angels into the curtain.”***

Once a year, the High Priest went through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. He sprinkled blood on the Box of the Agreement. This is how the Israelite nation had their sins forgiven.

This curtain represented the separation between God and His people. God hates sin, and He cannot be close to people whose sins have not been forgiven. When Jesus died on the cross, the curtain in the Temple in Jerusalem was torn into two pieces. This showed that because of Jesus’ death, people didn’t have to be separated from God any more.

I hope you are close to God. Have you made the decision to follow Jesus by repenting of your sins, confessing His name and being baptized? If not, be sure to read His Word and obey it today. Then you can be close to God!

– Jo Krueger

***Suggested Bible Reading***

***Exodus 26:31-37***

Sunday, July 15



## Holy Tent (9)

The most important furnishing in the Holy Tent was the Box of the Agreement. Like other furniture in the Holy Tent, it was made of acacia wood and covered with gold.

The Box of the Agreement had a lid called the mercy-cover. Exodus 25:19 tells us that there were angels on the mercy-cover. ***“Put one angel on one end of the mercy-cover, and put the other angel on the other end. Join the angels together with the mercy-cover to make one piece.”***

Hebrews 9:4 lists the things that were put inside the Box of the Agreement: a jar of manna, Aaron’s rod and the Ten Commandments. These three things reminded the Israelites that God provided for them, that He was powerful and that He protected them every day.

Once a year the High Priest sprinkled blood on the Box of the Agreement. That was how the Israelites had their sins forgiven. Many years later, Jesus came to earth and died on the cross. Then He became the only way that we can have our sins forgiven.

Jesus is the only way to God and forgiveness. Follow Him today!

– Jo Krueger

***Suggested Bible Reading***  
***Exodus 25:10-22***

Monday, July 16

## Holy Tent (10)

For the past nine days, we have learned about the Holy Tent. God commanded Moses and the Israelites to build the Holy Tent and furnish it according to His plan. The Holy Tent was very important to the Israelites. Why? Because that is where God lived and where their sins were forgiven.

Maybe you are wondering what all this means to Christians today. First, learning about the way God forgave the sins of the Israelites helps us be thankful that we don’t have to worry about sacrificing animals or having a High Priest sprinkle blood on a box. When Jesus died and arose from the dead, all of the Jewish laws were put aside. God gives Christians a new way to come close to Him. That way is through His Son, Jesus!

Second, I am happy that God does not live in a tent today. 1 Corinthians 3:16 tells us where God lives. ***“You should know that you yourselves are God’s temple. God’s Spirit lives in you.”*** Today God lives within people who follow and obey Him.

Praise God for His wonderful plan of salvation through Jesus. And thank God that He lives within you and guides you every day!

– Jo Krueger

***Suggested Bible Reading***  
***1 Corinthians 3:9-23***

Tuesday, July 17

## Other People

I love to play a word game called Scrabble. I remember playing this game with my family. I also remember that sometimes I was the winner!

The shortest word that is accepted in Scrabble is a two-letter word. A word with just one letter is not permitted in the game. That reminds me of the way God created us. We were made to be with other people. God doesn't want us to be alone. He wants us to enjoy relationships with other people.

As Christians, we should want to fellowship with other Christians. Paul knew that this is very important. So in his letter to the church in Ephesus, he talked about unity among Christians. Paul reminded these Christians what they should do in Ephesians 4:2-3. ***“Always be humble and gentle. Be patient and accept each other with love. You are joined together with peace through the Spirit. Do all you can to continue as you are, letting peace hold you together.”***

Other Christians can help us grow, and we can help them grow, too. And we can learn more about God through our relationships with other Christians. Thank God today for your brothers and sisters in Christ. Then serve Him together.

– Mark Jayobo

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Ephesians 4:1-16**

Wednesday, July 18

## Praying Alone

Jesus and His disciples ate the Passover meal together. Then they went to a garden called Gethsemane. Jesus told His disciples to sit and pray. Then He told Peter, James and John to come with Him.

This was a very sad and troubling time for Jesus. He knew that the next day He would be hung on a cross and die. Jesus wanted Peter, James and John to be with Him and to pray. Matthew 26:38 tells us what Jesus said to these three disciples. ***“Jesus said to Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, ‘My heart is so heavy with grief, I feel as if I am dying. Wait here and stay awake with me.’”***

Jesus walked a little farther, knelt down and prayed. Later, when Jesus went back to the three men, He found them sleeping. He asked them why they could not stay awake and pray with Him. Jesus continued praying alone. When He returned to Peter, James and John, they were asleep again.

Jesus was God, but He was also a man. He felt pain and sadness. He needed His disciples to pray for Him. But, they were asleep.

Maybe you know people who are sad and hurting today. Maybe no one is praying for them. Pray with them, and encourage them. Ask God to comfort and strengthen them as they face times of sadness and trouble.

– Donna Howard

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Matthew 26:36-46**

Thursday, July 19

## Serve Faithfully

After babies learn to walk, they soon start running. It is hard for their mothers to keep up with them all day. As they grow, they learn to run races with their friends. They work hard to cross the finish line first!

As Christians, we are in a race. We are racing toward the time when we can live forever with God. We will reach the finish line when we die. God will be waiting to welcome us into our heavenly home.

Paul wrote about this in his second letter to a young preacher named Timothy. In 2 Timothy 4:6-7 Paul talks about his own life. ***“My life is being given as an offering for God. The time has come for me to leave this life here. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have served the Lord faithfully.”***

Paul believed that Jesus was His Lord and Savior. His faith helped him when he was afraid, tired or discouraged. Paul faithfully served God every day. He kept his focus on Jesus and the finish line.

Look for ways to serve God today. You can share a meal with a friend, visit someone in the hospital, babysit for a young mother or read the Bible to neighborhood children. If you keep your eyes on Jesus, He will help you stay strong.

– Pam Davis

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**2 Timothy 4:1-8**

Friday, July 20

## Changes

We know that many things in the world are always changing. The weather changes from day to day, and the seasons change every year. It is summer in the United States now. But soon the weather will change again — it will be fall time and then winter.

People change, too. As they get older, their health may change. Their eyesight or hearing may decline. They may visit the doctor more often. The ways we communicate with each other have certainly changed over the past few years. We check social media many times a day to learn what is happening with our family members and friends.

We may think that everything in the world changes. But there is one thing that will never change. Hebrews 13:8 tells us about that. ***“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”***

Some changes we will experience in life are fine. Other changes may make us upset and discouraged. But no matter what changes happen to us, Jesus will never change. He will always be with us. And He will help us adapt to the new changes in our lives.

Jesus will always be our faithful Lord and Savior. Thank God for Jesus today!

– Suzanne Austin-Hill

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Hebrews 13:5-9**

Saturday, July 21

## Urim and Thummim

Exodus, chapter 28, tells us about special clothes that the Jewish high priest had to wear. One piece of clothing was a judgment pouch. This was like a bib or apron that covered the high priest's chest. Exodus 28:21 describes the judgment pouch. ***"There will be twelve jewels on the judgment pouch — one stone for each of the sons of Israel. Each stone will be like a seal with the name of one of the twelve tribes cut into it."***

Inside the judgment pouch, the high priest carried the Urim and Thummim. What were Urim and Thummim? No one knows for sure. These things were lost many, many years before Jesus was born. We know that the Hebrew word Urim means lights or curses. The word Thummim means perfections. The high priest used the Urim and Thummim to find out what God wanted. Maybe the high priest used these like casting lots or rolling dice. He would ask God a question, and the Urim and Thummim would show God's answer.

We do not need Urim and Thummim today to know God's will. God has given us His Word, the Bible. We can study it to know what God wants us to do. God has also sent us His Holy Spirit. The Spirit guides us and helps us to know God's will.

– Matt Keller

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Exodus 28:15-30**

Sunday, July 22

## Serving God

God has given every person different talents. I know a woman who paints pretty pictures. Some people can play musical instruments. Others can sign beautiful poems. A pastor I know is skilled at building houses. A lady in my church prepares wonderful meals for other people.

God has given us talents so that we can serve Him. In Exodus, chapter 31, we learn about a man named Bezalel. God gave this man special talents so he could help build and furnish the Tent of Meeting. Exodus 31:4-5 tell us about Bezalel's skills. ***"He is a good designer. And he can make things from gold, silver, and bronze. He can cut and set beautiful jewels. And he can work with wood. He can do all kinds of work."***

God gave Bezalel the knowledge and talent to do a special job. God has given you talents, too. Maybe you think that you don't have any special talents. Maybe you feel that God would not want to use you. That is wrong! God wants you to serve Him.

God has a plan for your life. He wants you to serve in His kingdom. Thank God today for your talents and ask Him to show you how He wants you to serve Him.

– Pam Davis

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Exodus 31:1-11**

Monday, July 23

## Rest

I know a man who started doing push-ups every night before bed. After several nights, his arms were sore. So one night he did not do any push-ups; he rested. The next night he felt much better, and he could do even more push-ups. It was not as hard because his body had rested. He regained his strength and grew even stronger.

God designed our bodies to need rest. If we stop and rest, we will be able to grow and continue our work. If we do not rest, we will become more and more tired. We also need to rest mentally and spiritually. We cannot give all our energy all the time.

God told the Israelites that they needed to rest. He set aside a special day, the Sabbath, so they could rest. Exodus 31:15 tells us what God said about the Sabbath. ***“There are six other days in the week for working. But the seventh day is a very special day of rest. That is the special day to honor the Lord. Anyone who works during the Sabbath must be killed.”***

God has given us six days to work and one day to rest. He does not want us to become tired. Take a day to rest. Study the Bible and pray. Thank God for the rest He gives you. Then you will be stronger and better to serve Him.

– Matt Keller

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 31:12-18**

Tuesday, July 24

## Gold Calf

Moses went up on Mount Sinai to meet with God. Moses was gone a long time. The Israelites became impatient. They stopped trusting God. So they asked Moses' brother, Aaron, to make them an idol to worship.

Aaron told the people to bring him their gold earrings. Exodus 32:4 tells us what Aaron did with this gold. ***“He took the gold from the people and used it to make an idol. Using a special tool, he shaped the gold into a statue of a calf. Then the people said, ‘Israel, here are your gods! These are the gods that brought you out of the land of Egypt!’”***

The Israelites worshiped the gold calf instead of worshiping God. This made God very angry. He wanted to destroy the Israelites. But Moses asked God to not kill the people. Moses melted the gold calf and mixed the gold with water. Then he forced the Israelites to drink the water. About 3000 people died from drinking that water.

Today we may not worship idols made of gold, but sometimes we make our possessions more important than God. God wants us to make Him most important in our lives. Be sure to use your time, money and abilities to serve God every day!

– Carol Whitney

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 32:1-14**

Wednesday, July 25

## God Leads

It is already the middle of 2018. How is your year going? Have you had any surprises or changes in your life this year? We like to be able to plan our lives and predict when things will happen. But we cannot always do that.

Moses probably wanted to know what would happen as he led the Israelites. He had the very important job of taking care of a whole nation of people. In Exodus, chapter 33, Moses asked God some questions about the future. God had told Moses to lead the people, but Moses wanted details. He wanted God to assure him that He would always be with him.

Exodus 33:13-14 tells us what Moses said and how God responded. ***“If I have really pleased you, then teach me your ways. I want to know you. Then I can continue to please you. Remember that these people are your nation.” The Lord answered, I myself will be with you. I will lead you.”***

We, too, need to know that God will be with us. God told Moses that He would be with him. Many other times in the Bible we see that God promised His people He would be with them. God was always faithful to them, and He will be faithful to us, too.

What will happen during the rest of 2018? I don't know. But I do know that God will be with you!

– Bob La Forge

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 33:12-23**

Thursday, July 26

## Moses' Shining Face

Moses talked with God on the mountain. When he came down from the mountain, his face was shining. When the Israelites saw that Moses' face was shining, they were afraid.

So Moses put a covering over his face. But when he talked with God, he took off the covering. In Exodus 34:35 we learn more about what Moses did. ***“The people would see that Moses' face was shining bright, so he would cover his face again. He kept his face covered until the next time he went in to speak with the Lord.”*** Moses was a very special person. He spoke with God many times. After he spoke with God, his face shone. Moses was changed when he spoke with God.

Spending time with God can change us, too. But how can we spend time with God? Do we need to climb up Mount Sinai? No, we don't need to climb a mountain. It is easy for us to spend time with God every day. We can do that by praying and reading the Bible.

After Moses was with God, people noticed that he had changed. When we spend time with God, His Word can change us, too. We should be more loving, kind and patient. Spend time with God today. Talk to Him and learn from His Word. Then people will see that you are becoming more like Him.

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 34:29-35**

Friday, July 27

## Fearing God

Usually we think that fear is a bad thing. But sometimes fear can be a good thing. Being afraid of fire may keep us from getting burned. Fear of being in jail keeps us from breaking the law. And fear of being cut reminds us to be careful when we use a knife.

Fearing God is a good thing, too. Hebrews 12:28-29 talks about fearing and respecting God. ***“So we should be thankful because we have a kingdom that cannot be shaken. And because we are thankful, we should worship God in a way that will please him. We should do this with respect and fear, because our God is like a fire that can destroy us.”***

Fearing God doesn't mean that we run and hide from Him. Fearing God means being afraid to do anything that would disappoint Him or make Him angry. When we fear God, we have a deep and wonderful respect for Him. This respect helps us obey God and keeps us from doing wrong things.

When we fear and obey God, we become part of His strong and eternal kingdom. And we do things that please Him. That helps us understand that fearing God is a good thing.

I encourage you to ask God to help you fear and respect Him. Then you will please Him.

– Gayle Thorn

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
*Hebrews 12:25-29*

Saturday, July 28

## Sin

A thief steals a large amount of money from a bank. He has broken the law. He has also disobeyed God's command to not steal. Two couples are playing a card game. When the men leave the room, one of the ladies says, “Let's stack the deck so we can win. The men will never know.”

Robbing a bank is clearly a sin. But is cheating at a game of cards a sin? Even if no one knows about the cheating, God knows. Stealing and cheating are sins, and God cannot tolerate them.

So some people may ask, “How much sin is too much sin?” The answer is that any sin is too much sin. Romans 3:23 talks about this. ***“All have sinned and are not good enough to share God's divine greatness.”***

Maybe you haven't robbed a bank or cheated at a card game. But you have failed God. Maybe you have said untrue things about another person. Maybe you cheated on a test or looked at sinful things on the Internet.

The good news is that God has provided a way to forgive our sins. That way is through His Son, Jesus. Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. We must confess our sins to God and obey His Word. Then His Holy Spirit will help us to keep on obeying and trusting Him.

– Lynette Denton

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
*Romans 3:21-26*

Sunday, July 29

## Luck

You probably know someone who has said, “Wish me luck.” But God’s Word clearly tells us that God is aware of all things that happen in our lives. The writer of Psalm 139:2-3 tells us that not one event happens without God’s knowledge and control. ***“You know when I sit down and when I get up. You know my thoughts from far away. You know where I go and where I lie down. You know everything I do.”***

I know a woman who was suddenly left alone when her husband divorced her and married another woman. For the first time in her life, she had to find a job. She only had a high school education and no working experience. Many people thought that she would never find a job. But God knew what was happening to that woman. Within three weeks she had a job as a secretary. Through that job, God used the woman to encourage and help hurting people.

Some people told the woman she was lucky to find such a good job. But she always told them that God was guiding her. She said that getting that job had nothing to do with luck.

Think about your life. Do you tell people how lucky you are? If you are a Christian, God is working in your life. Instead of talking about luck, praise God and tell people how God has blessed and taken care of you.

– Norma Mezoe

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Psalm 139:1-10**

Monday, July 30

## Book of Joshua

The book of Joshua is the sixth book of the Old Testament. We do not know for sure who wrote this book. Some people believe that Joshua or one of his helpers wrote the book. It is an exciting book filled with stories about how the Israelites conquered the land of Canaan. The theme of this book is that God was always with the Israelites. Through His power and miracles, the Israelites were able to settle in the land that God had promised to them.

When the Israelites were finally living in the new land, Joshua did something to help the people remember how God had guided them. Joshua made an agreement that said the people would only worship and serve God. Joshua found a large stone and made it a symbol of the agreement. He put the stone near God’s Holy Tent.

Joshua 24:27 tells us what Joshua told the people. ***“Then Joshua said to all the people, This stone will help you remember what we said today. This stone was here when the Lord was speaking to us today. So this stone will be something that helps you remember what happened today. The stone will be a witness against you. It will stop you from turning against God.”***

Joshua’s message is for us today, too. Be sure that God is most important in your life. Worship and serve Him every day!

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Joshua 24:25-28**

Tuesday, July 31



## Joshua

Joshua was a man who loved and obeyed God. Exodus 17:9 tells us that Joshua led the Israelite army against the Amalekites. ***“So Moses said to Joshua, ‘Choose some men and go and fight the Amalekites tomorrow. I will stand on top of the hill and watch you. I will be holding the walking stick God gave me.”***

Later, Moses went up in the mountain to meet with God and receive His laws. Joshua went with him. When Moses was ready to die, he put his hands on Joshua and made him the new leader of the Israelites. Joshua was filled with God’s spirit and wisdom. From that time on, the Israelites obeyed Joshua, just like they had obeyed Moses.

The book of Numbers tells us that Joshua was one of the 12 men Moses sent into Canaan to spy on the land. When these men returned, 10 men said that the Israelites would not be able to go in to Canaan and take the land. Only Joshua and Caleb said that the Israelites could easily conquer the land with God’s help.

Joshua showed that he had faith in God’s power. Throughout his life, Joshua believed that God would continue to be with him and take care of the Israelites. Joshua is an example we should follow today. I hope your faith is strong like Joshua’s and that you will serve God today.

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Exodus 17:8-16**

Wednesday, August 1

## Success

Many people think they know how to be successful. They say if you buy their product or book, then you will be able to have great wealth and power, good health, a beautiful body or other things that will make you successful.

Moses died, and Joshua became the new leader of Israel. Joshua was preparing to lead the Israelites into Canaan. They would have to face many battles to conquer the land God had promised to them. Joshua was probably afraid. Would he be a successful leader like Moses? Would the Israelites follow him?

God encouraged Joshua in Joshua 1:8. ***“Always remember what is written in that book of law. Speak about that book and study it day and night. Then you can be sure to obey what is written there. If you do this, you will be wise and successful in everything you do.”***

God told Joshua he would be a wise and successful leader if he remembered two things — that God was always with him and that he needed to study and obey the laws God had given to His people.

Do you want to be successful? Depend on God in everything and study and obey His Word, the Bible. Then you will be truly successful.

– Jolynn Stinehagen

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Joshua 1:1-9**

Thursday, August 2

## Rahab

Joshua was ready to lead the Israelites into a new land. So he sent two men to spy out the city of Jericho. God led the spies to the house of a prostitute named Rahab.

The king of Jericho learned that some men had come to spy out the land. He warned Rahab to not hide them. But Rahab hid the men anyway. Why? Because she believed in God. She had heard about the wonderful things God had done. Joshua 2:11 tells us what Rahab told the spies. ***“When we heard about this, we were very afraid. And now, not one of our men is brave enough to fight you, because the Lord your God rules the heavens above and the earth below!”***

Rahab helped the spies safely escape from Jericho. They promised Rahab that she and her family would be saved when the Israelites attacked Jericho. The men gave Rahab a red rope and told her to tie the rope in her window. Then when they returned, they would know which house was hers. The men kept their promise. Rahab and her family were saved.

Rahab was a sinner. But God looked at her heart and knew that she wanted to follow and obey Him. God knows you and wants you to trust Him — just like Rahab did. Depend on him today!

– Donna Howard

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Joshua 2:1-24**

Friday, August 3

## Jonathan and David

Jonathan was the son of King Saul of Israel. Jonathan loved and trusted God. He believed that God knew what was best for His life and the Israelite nation. Jonathan knew that David was God’s choice to be the next king. Jonathan could have demanded that the Israelites respect and follow him. He could have tried to find a way to become the new king. Instead, he trusted God and His plan.

Jonathan and David were very good friends. They worked together for God. 1 Samuel 20:42 tells us about their friendship. ***“Then Jonathan said to David, ‘Go in peace. We have taken an oath in the Lord’s name to be friends forever. We have asked the Lord to be a witness between us and our descendants forever.’”***

King Saul was the opposite of Jonathan. Saul did not want to obey God and submit to His plan. Many times he tried to kill David, but God protected David and kept him safe. Through all these bad times, Jonathan remained David’s close friend.

God always knows what is best for us. Sometimes we may not understand God’s plan. But we need to trust God and not question His wisdom. I hope you are willing to be like Jonathan today. Trust God completely!

– Gayle Thorn

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**1 Samuel 20:35-42**

Saturday, August 4

## Reaching the Goal

Maybe you have watched an old Tarzan movie on TV. Tarzan lived in the jungle. He traveled by swinging from vine to vine. In order for him to move ahead, Tarzan had to reach for the vine in front of him and let go of the vine that he was holding onto. If Tarzan didn't let go of the vine, he could not move forward.

We should not want to live in the past. We should not keep thinking about our disappointments and failures. If we keep thinking about those things, we will not have peace and joy in our life. We need to realize that the past is over and move forward.

In the book of Philippians, Paul talked about reaching the goal of eternal life with God. He told what he was doing in Philippians 3:13-14. ***“Brothers and sisters, I know that I still have a long way to go. But there is one thing I do: I forget what is in the past and try as hard as I can to reach the goal before me. I keep running hard toward the finish line to get the prize that is mine because God has called me through Christ Jesus to life up there in heaven.”***

Are you holding onto things that have happened in your past? Ask God to help you let go of those things and focus on serving Him. If you do that, your life will be so much more peaceful and joyful.

– Dave Lewicki

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Philippians 3:12-16**

Sunday, August 5

## Living by Faith

God may ask you to do something, but you are not sure what will happen. For example, you may believe that God wants you to quit your job and become a missionary. Giving up a regular paycheck and trusting God may cause you to be scared or worried. If you trust God and become a missionary, you are living by faith.

The Israelites were ready to enter the land that God had promised to them. They were at the banks of the Jordan River. The river was at its highest level. Crossing the river at this level would be dangerous. In Joshua 3:13 we read what Joshua told the Israelites would happen. ***“The priests will carry the Holy Box of the Lord. He is the Lord of the whole world. They will carry that Box in front of you into the Jordan River. When they enter the water, the water of the Jordan River will stop flowing and fill behind that place like a dam.”***

The water of the Jordan River did not stop flowing until the priests stepped into the water. If they had not obeyed God and stepped into the water, they would have missed God's blessings. The Israelites obeyed God and were living by faith.

God wants you to trust Him and live by faith. Obey God today and thank Him for His blessings!

– Jolynn Stinehagen

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Joshua 3:1-17**

Monday, August 6

## Reminder

Yesterday we talked about the Israelites crossing the Jordan River. When the priests stepped into the water, the water stopped flowing. All the Israelites were able to cross the Jordan River on dry land. That was a miracle — something that could only happen with God’s power.

After all the Israelites had crossed the Jordan River, God told Joshua to choose twelve men. Each of these men were to take a rock from the river. Then they were to put these rocks at the place where they camped. Joshua 4:6-7 explains why God wanted Joshua to do this. ***“These rocks will be a sign for you. In the future, your children will ask you, ‘What do these rocks mean?’ You will tell them that the Lord stopped the water from flowing in the Jordan River. When the Holy Box of the Lord’s Agreement crossed the river, the water stopped flowing. These rocks will help the Israelites remember this forever.”***

Why did God want the Israelites to remember this miracle? Because He wanted His people to know that He is powerful. The twelve rocks were a reminder of God’s great power and protection for the Israelites.

God wants us to love and trust Him, too. Think about all the wonderful things God has done for you, and remember that you can always depend on Him!

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Joshua 4:1-5:1**

Tuesday, August 7

## No More Manna

Do you remember that God provided special food for the Israelites as they traveled to their new land? This special food was called manna. For 40 years the Israelites gathered manna. They cooked the manna in a pot or ground it into flour to make thin cakes.

But now the Israelites were in the new land that was filled with good food to eat. So God commanded the Israelites to celebrate the Passover in this new land. This celebration helped them remember how God had freed them from slavery in Egypt.

During that celebration, the Israelites ate food that grew in the land. They also ate bread that was made without yeast. Joshua 5:12 tells us what happened next. ***“The next morning, the manna from heaven stopped coming. This happened the first day after the people ate the food that grew in the land of Canaan. From that time on, the Israelites did not get the manna from heaven.”***

This story reminds us that God knows exactly what we need. He knew what was best for the Israelites, and He always knows what is best for us, too. No matter what happens today, remember to trust God to do what is best for you!

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Joshua 5:2-12**

Wednesday, August 8

## God's Plan

After the Israelites crossed the Jordan River into the new land, they were involved in a strange military battle. No army general would ever plan this kind of attack. God's plan was for the Israelites to march around the city of Jericho and to blow their trumpets.

The Israelites may have wondered about God's plan to capture Jericho. And the people living in Jericho may have laughed as they watched the Israelites march around their city for seven days. But they probably weren't laughing when the walls of Jericho came down with only a shout from the Israelites.

Joshua 6:20 tells us what happened. ***“So then the priests blew the trumpets. When the people heard the trumpets, they began shouting. The walls fell down, and the people ran up into the city. So the Israelites defeated that city.”***

Why did God make such a strange battle plan? Because God wanted the Israelites and the people of Jericho to know that He was in control. The Israelites didn't win the battle using their own power. God won the battle!

You may not always understand God's plan for your life. But you don't need to know. Just trust God and obey. God always knows what He is doing!

– Jolynn Stinehagen

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Joshua 6:1-21**

Thursday, August 9

## One Person's Sin

Sometimes when people sin, they say, “It doesn't matter. My sin is not hurting anyone but myself.” But that is not true. Our sinful actions often hurt our family members, our friends and our jobs.

Joshua, chapter 7, tells us what happened when one person sinned. God helped the Israelites destroy the city of Jericho. He told the people not to take anything from Jericho for themselves. But one person, Achan, took some things and buried them under his tent. When the Israelites went to fight the people of Ai, God was not with them. Why? Because Achan had sinned. God allowed the people of Ai to defeat the Israelites.

God told Joshua that their defeat was because of sin. Then God said that Joshua should find the person who sinned and punish him. Joshua 7:25 tells us what happened to Achan. ***“Then Joshua said, You have caused much trouble for us, but now the Lord will bring trouble to you. Then all the people threw stones at Achan and his family until they died. Then the people burned them and everything he owned.”***

Do you have sin in your life? Ask God to forgive you and to help you stop doing that sin.

– Jolynn Stinehagen

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Joshua 7:1-26**

Friday, August 10

## Jesus' Prayer

A short time before Jesus was arrested and crucified, He did something very special for His disciples. Jesus prayed for them!

Jesus knew that He would only be on earth for a short time. In His prayer, Jesus asked God to help His disciples in several ways. He asked God to unite the disciples, to keep them safe, to give them true happiness, to protect them from the devil and to make them ready to serve God. It makes me happy to know that Jesus wanted God to take care of His disciples.

But in John 17:20, Jesus said something that really makes me happy! ***"I pray not only for these followers but also for those who will believe in me because of their teaching."*** Who was Jesus praying for? He was praying for you and me! Jesus taught His disciples, and they taught other people. Then down through the generations, people have shared the Good News about Jesus. Finally, you and I learned about Jesus.

Jesus prayed for us many years ago. And He is still with us today. He wants us to continue following and obeying Him. He wants us to serve Him and love other people. Jesus wants us to experience His grace and peace every day!

– Donna Howard

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**John 17:1-26**

Saturday, August 11

## Jesus Understands

It's fun to dress up and go to a costume party. We can put on special makeup and clothes. We can dress up and pretend to be an animal, a superhero or a Bible character. But when the party is over, we remove our costume and makeup and go back to our old selves again.

When Jesus came to earth He was not just pretending to be a man. He was fully divine and fully human. Jesus was not God on the inside and man on the outside. In John 10:38 Jesus explained that He and God are one. ***"But if I do what my Father does, you should believe in what I do. You might not believe in me, but you should believe in the things I do. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."***

Because Jesus was fully human, He experienced pain and suffering just like we do. He felt loneliness, hunger and betrayal. So He understands what we are going through when a loved one dies, when we lose our job, when we face family problems or when we feel sad.

And because Jesus is fully divine, He can comfort us and fill us with His love and strength. Are you suffering today? Jesus understands how you feel. Ask Him to guide you through the difficult things you are facing.

– Bob La Forge

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**John 10:22-42**

Sunday, August 12

## Grow!

Bad things happen in our lives. Maybe we lose a job, someone we love dies or we find out that we have cancer. When bad things happen, we may think that it is the end of the world.

As Christians, bad things can often lead us to new life experiences and help us to grow in Jesus. When something bad happens to us, we should not give up. Instead, we should look for ways to become a stronger Christian. Paul gives us some good advice about this in Colossians 2:6-7. ***“You accepted Christ Jesus as Lord, so continue to live following him. You must depend on Christ only, drawing life and strength from him. Just as you were taught the truth, continue to grow stronger in your understanding of it. And never stop giving thanks to God.”***

In those verses, Paul encourages us to do three things. First, we should continue to depend on Jesus. He will give us comfort and help us to grow spiritually. Second, we should continue to learn more about God’s Word and how we can live for Him. And third, we should continue to give thanks to God for taking care of us.

Are things changing in your life today? Don’t give up! Depend on Jesus. He will help you grow stronger in your Christian life.

– Cathy Garvin

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Colossians 2:1-12**

Monday, August 13

## Paul’s Prayer

The book of Philippians is a letter that Paul wrote to Christians in the city of Philippi. Paul had a special relationship with these Christians. He loved them and prayed for them every day.

Paul begins his prayer for these Christians in Philippians 1:9. ***“This is my prayer for you: that your love will grow more and more; that you will have knowledge and understanding with your love.”*** Paul wanted his Christian friends to grow in their love for God and to have a knowledge and understanding of God’s plan for their lives.

Paul also prayed that these Christians would be able to choose to do what is really important in life, to be pure and blameless until Jesus comes and to do good things that bring glory to God.

The things that Paul mentioned in his prayer are good things for us to do, too. We can accomplish these things if we read and study God’s Word and do what it says everyday. Then, if we do these things, we will be closer to God and we will make a big difference in the lives of people around us.

Think about Paul’s prayer today. Decide to grow in love, knowledge and understanding!

– Pam Davis

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Philippians 1:9-11**

Tuesday, August 14

## Old Sandals

The Israelites went into the new land God had promised to them. God told the Israelites to destroy all the people living near them. Why? Because these people did not follow and obey God.

The Gibeonites lived close to the Israelites. The Gibeonites did not want to be killed, so they made a plan to fool the Israelites. The Gibeonites dressed up like they had been traveling for a long time. Joshua 9:5 tells us what else the Gibeonites did. ***“The men put old sandals on their feet and wore old clothes. They found some old bread that was dry and moldy.”***

The Gibeonites told the Israelites that they had traveled from a far place and that they wanted to make a peace agreement. The Israelites did not ask God what they should do. Instead, they made a peace agreement with the people of Gibeon. Later, the Israelites learned that the Gibeonites lived very close to them. But they had to keep their promise, even though it was not what God wanted them to do.

When we have important decisions to make, we should always ask God what we should do. If we do, God will lead and bless us. Be sure to ask God to guide you today.

– Jo Krueger

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Joshua 9:1-27**

Wednesday, August 15

## Be Strong and Brave

A young Christian man went to work in a logging camp for the summer. Before he left home, his mother gave him some advice. She told her son to be careful. Why? Because there would probably be men in the camp who would make fun of the young man because he was a Christian.

At the end of the summer, the young man came home. His mother asked him about his work at the camp. He answered, “Everything was fine. I was afraid that the men in the camp would tease me, so I never told anyone that I was a Christian.” That young man was not willing to be brave and courageous for God.

Joshua and his soldiers knew that they would have to face many enemies in the new land. In Joshua 10:25, Joshua encouraged his men to continue following God. ***“Then Joshua said to his men, ‘Be strong and brave! Don’t be afraid. I will show you what the Lord will do to all the enemies you will fight in the future.’”***

We should be like Joshua’s soldiers. When we have an opportunity to tell someone about Jesus, we should be strong and brave. We shouldn’t worry that someone may make fun of us or hurt us. Stand strong for God and His Word today. Remember that God will always be with you!

– Anonymous

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Joshua 10:16-27**

Thursday, August 16



## Caleb

Before the Israelites went into their new land, Moses sent men into the land to see what it was like. One of the men Moses sent was Caleb.

Forty-five years after Caleb and the Israelites first went into the new land, Caleb received some land from Joshua. Joshua 14:13-14 tells us about this. ***“Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh. Joshua gave him the city of Hebron as his own. And that city still belongs to the family of Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite. That land still belongs to his people because he trusted and obeyed the Lord, God of Israel.”***

Caleb told the Israelites about when he first went into the new land. Some of the men who went with Caleb were afraid of what they saw. These men gave a bad report about the land. Only Caleb and Joshua trusted God. They believed God would help them conquer the land.

God was angry with the Israelites because of their bad report. So He did not let any of them enter the new land, except for Joshua and Caleb. Caleb always trusted and obeyed God. He was not afraid to do the things God commanded, even if they were difficult or frightening.

Sometimes we may be afraid to do what God wants. But we need to be like Caleb. We should trust God, no matter how difficult it may be.

– Matt Keller

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Joshua 14:6-15**

Friday, August 17

## Be a Good Worker

Joshua led God’s people to a new land. Then he divided the land among the family groups of Israel. The family group of Joseph was very large. They felt that the land they received was not big enough for all their people.

In Joshua 17:15, we read what Joshua told these people to do. ***“Joshua answered them, If you have too many people, go up to the wooded area in the hill country and clear that land for a place to live. That land now belongs to the Perizzites and the Rephaites. But if the hill country of Ephraim is too small for you, go take that land.”***

God provided these people with more land, but the land was not ready for them to live there. First, they had to defeat the people who were living there. Then, Joseph’s family group had to cut down trees and clear the land.

God has promised to give us what we need in life, to be with us and to help us. But God won’t do everything for us. God may give us a job so we can provide things for ourselves. He wants us to work hard at our jobs. That is one way we can serve Him.

Thank God for your job and the family responsibilities that He has given to you. Work hard to please God and to take care of yourself and your family. Be a good worker for God today!

– Gayle Thorn

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Joshua 17:14-18**

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Saturday, August 18

## Worrying and Praying

Prayer should be the central part of every Christian's life. But sometimes I think that mothers and fathers are special prayer warriors, because they are continually praying for their children.

It is easy for fathers and mothers to worry about their children — whether the children are still at home or are grown up and on their own. When Paul was writing to the Christians in Philippi, he gave some good advice about worrying and praying. This advice is especially good for parents. Paul shared his advice in Philippians 4:6. ***“Don't worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks for what you have.”***

Maybe your children are young and could hurt themselves on the playground. Don't worry about this. Instead, pray and ask God to protect your children. Or maybe your child is an adult now and must make a decision about a new job. Don't worry about this. Instead, pray and ask God to help your child have wisdom.

Finally, don't forget to thank God. When He answers your prayers about protection and wisdom, be sure to thank Him. Don't worry today! Instead, trust God and ask Him for His guidance.

– Bonnie Hall

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Philippians 4:5-9**

Sunday, August 19

## Lessons from Life

The things that happen to us in life often teach us lessons. Sometimes the best lessons are learned when we are sick or near death. During those times we realize that our only choice is to completely depend on God.

We do not know what will happen to us in the future. We can make our own plans, but God may have different plans for us. James talked about this in James 4:14. ***“You don't know what will happen tomorrow. Your life is like a fog. You can see it for a short time, but then it goes away.”***

Some people have suffered heart attacks, strokes or injuries from an accident. They are in a hospital for many days. As they recover, they may not even remember what happened to them. But many of these people learn that their faith in God is the most important thing in their life.

You don't know what will happen to you today. You may have a great day and everything will go according to your plan. Or something may go wrong and your plans will change. You don't need to worry about this. Instead, focus on God and His Word. And remember that His plan for your life is the very best!

God will be with you today to teach you some lessons from life. Depend on Him and His plan!

– Robert Segress

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**James 4:13-17**

Monday, August 20

## The Clock

My friends have a clock on their bedroom wall. At night, the clock glows like the moon. The clock looks great, but it has one problem. It does not work. It does not show the correct time.

That clock looks good, but it doesn't do what it is supposed to do. That reminds me of some Christians. They look good on the outside. Others look at them and think, "That person must be a very good Christian." But on the inside, that person is not truly following and obeying God.

Paul talked about being a true Christian in Ephesians 2:10. ***"God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us new people so that we would spend our lives doing the good things he had already planned for us to do."***

If we are truly Christians, we will not just look like a Christian. We will act like a Christian. When we obeyed God and became a Christian, He made us a new person. He gave us His Word, the Bible, to help us learn how we can faithfully follow and obey Him every day.

Don't pretend to be a Christian. Love God with all your heart, study His Word and ask Him to help you stay close to Him.

– Linda Lamb

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Ephesians 2:4-10**

Tuesday, August 21

## Enjoy Life

Sometimes when I travel, I drive through areas that are flat and boring. I only see a few trees. Most people do not like to travel through these areas. They just endure the drive until they can reach their destination.

Some people, however, like this kind of trip. They find beauty in the scenery, and they use the time to develop relationships with their traveling companions.

As a Christian, I try to view life in the same way. Of course, my destination is eternal life with God. But while I am on earth, I have a choice. I can complain about difficult people around me, my bad job, my poor health and my financial troubles. Or, I can find the good things in life and enjoy them.

The writer of Ecclesiastes wrote about this in Ecclesiastes 5:18. ***"I have seen what is best for people to do on earth: They should eat, drink, and enjoy the work they have during their short time here. God has given them these few days, and that is all they have."***

Maybe your life seems dull and boring today. Look for God's blessings in your life. Take time to thank Him for these blessings. And, be sure to enjoy what God has given you!

– Bob La Forge

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Ecclesiastes 5:10-20**

Wednesday, August 22

## God's Promises

When the Israelites left Egypt, God promised to lead them into a new land. Joshua 21:43 tells us that God kept this promise. ***“So the Lord kept the promise that he had made to the Israelites and gave the people all the land that he had promised. The people took the land and lived there.”***

Giving the new land to the Israelites is just one example of God keeping His promises. The Bible is filled with God's promises, and He always does exactly what He says He will do. God promised that Abraham's descendants would become a great nation, and that happened. God promised that He would send a Savior for all people. That happened when God sent Jesus to earth.

But some people think that if we have troubles, God is not keeping His promise to us. God did not promise that Christians would never have sorrow or pain. But God did promise to help us. God did not promise that we would never suffer. But He promised that our suffering will only last for a little while. God has promised that after the suffering, He will give us eternal joy and peace.

God has promised us many wonderful things. Think about these things today and remember that God always keeps His promises!

– *Opal Cochran*

***Suggested Bible Reading***

***Joshua 21:43-45***

Thursday, August 23

## Honor God

After the Israelites had conquered the new land, some of the tribes settled on the west side of the Jordan River. And some tribes settled in Gilead on the east side of the Jordan River. These tribes in Gilead built a beautiful altar.

The other Israelites heard about this altar and thought that the altar was to make sacrifices to false gods. Joshua 22:18 tells us what the other Israelites said to the tribes in Gilead. ***“And now you are doing the same thing. You are turning against the Lord. Will you refuse to follow the Lord? If you don't stop what you are doing, he will be angry with everyone in Israel.”***

The leaders from Gilead explained that their altar was built to honor God. They were not trying to rebel against God. They wanted everyone in the surrounding countries to know that they followed and obeyed the one true God.

We should be like the people in Gilead. We need to let other people know that we follow and obey God. We need to make choices that honor and glorify God. We need to share the Good News about the one true God and His Son, Jesus.

I hope that the things you do today and the places you go bring honor to God. Honor God with your whole life!

– *Gayle Thorn*

***Suggested Bible Reading***

***Joshua 22:1-34***

Friday, August 24

## Follow God

Before Joshua died, he talked with the Israelites and encouraged them to continue following God. The people who lived near the Israelites did not follow God. They worshiped false gods and bowed down to idols. Joshua didn't want God's people to turn away from God and worship other gods.

Joshua 23:8 tells us what Joshua said to the Israelites. ***"You must continue to follow the Lord your God. You have done this in the past, and you must continue to do it."***

You probably know many people who are not Christians. It is good for you to be their friend and show them God's love. But be careful that they do not influence you to stop following God.

The New Testament book of 2 Corinthians is a letter Paul wrote to Christians in the city of Corinth. These Christians were surrounded by people who worshiped false gods. Paul reminded them that good and evil do not belong together. He encouraged these people to stay faithful to God.

Be careful today to keep following God and His Word. Don't forget God. Obey and worship only Him!

– Milton Cabrera

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Joshua 23:1-10**

Saturday, August 25

## Choose to Serve God

It is easy to say that we want to serve God. But actually serving God can be difficult. If we serve God, we may have to give up some things in our lives. Or, it may mean that we have to be willing to die for God.

As Joshua was ready to die, he once again spoke to the Israelites and encouraged them to stay true to God. Joshua knew that these people would soon forget God and start serving other gods. Joshua 24:15 shows us what Joshua told the Israelites. ***"But maybe you don't want to serve the Lord. You must choose for yourselves today. Today you must decide who you will serve. Will you serve the gods that your ancestors worshiped when they lived on the other side of the Euphrates River? Or will you serve the gods of the Amorites who lived in this land? You must choose for yourselves. But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord."***

Maybe you don't serve gods made of wood and stone like some of the Israelites did. But maybe you make other things more important than God. Choosing to serve God is not something you do just once. You must choose to follow Him every day.

Don't forget God and follow people in the world. Choose to serve God today and every day!

– Jolynn Stinehagen

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Joshua 24:14-24**

Sunday, August 26

## Jesus' Sacrifice

The writer of the book of Hebrews wrote to Jews who had become Christians. Some of these Jews wanted to follow the teachings of the Old Testament instead of following the teachings of Jesus and His disciples.

In Hebrews 10:10, the writer told these Jews that they should only follow Jesus. ***“Jesus Christ did the things God wanted him to do. And because of that, we are made holy through the sacrifice of Christ’s body. Christ made that sacrifice one time — enough for all time.”*** Then the writer talked about several things that Christians should do. For the next few days, we will take a closer look at chapter 10 of Hebrews.

The Most Holy Place was the part of the Jewish Temple where God lived. One day each year the High Priest went into the Most Holy Place to make a sacrifice for the sins of the people. When Jesus died, the curtain in front of the Most Holy Place was torn apart. This showed that Jesus had become the sacrifice for sins. The priest didn’t need to make any more animal sacrifices for the people. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice.

Jesus died for you! If you are not a Christian, study the Bible today and learn how to accept God’s gift of salvation and make Jesus the Lord of your life. If you are already a Christian, thank God for Jesus’ great sacrifice.

– Jennifer Forrester

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Hebrews 10:1-18**

Monday, August 27

## Come Near to God

The Jewish High Priest was the only person who could enter the Most Holy Place where God lived. No other person could enter that place and make sacrifices. When Jesus died, everything changed — Christians could have their sins forgiven through Jesus’ blood. They did not need to have a High Priest make a sacrifice for their sins.

The writer of Hebrews tells us several things that Christians should do. The first thing is found in Hebrews 10:22. ***“Sprinkled with the blood of Christ, our hearts have been made free from a guilty conscience, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. So come near to God with a sincere heart, full of confidence because of our faith in Christ.”*** Christians need to come close to God.

Second, we should remember the hope that we have. This hope is that Jesus will come again to take His followers to live forever with Him. And third, we should tell other people about this hope.

What about your life today? Maybe you have not allowed Jesus to remove your sins. Maybe you have forgotten that Jesus will come again. Maybe you are not telling other people about Jesus. Now is the time to change. Decide to live for Jesus today!

– Jennifer Forrester

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Hebrews 10:19-22**

Tuesday, August 28

## Help Each Other

The writer of Hebrews said that some of the Christian Jews were not meeting together any more. In Hebrews 10:25 he encouraged these people to meet with other Christians. ***“We must not quit meeting together, as some of you are doing. No, we need to keep on encouraging each other. This becomes more and more important as you see the Day getting closer.”***

Why should Christians meet together? So they can encourage each other. Then they can be strong when they have to face hard times and persecution.

Today many Christians around the world face difficult situations. Some even face death because they follow Jesus. We need to have encouragement from other Christians so we can stand strong during these times. We can receive this encouragement from worship services, Bible studies, fellowship dinners and prayer meetings. If we continue to do these things, we will have the courage to be strong for God.

Maybe you do not regularly attend a worship service or Bible study. Find an opportunity today to fellowship with other Christians. Then encourage and strengthen each other to stand strong for God!

– Jennifer Forrester

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Hebrews 10:23-25**

Wednesday, August 29

## Stay in Jesus

Parents often have rules for the children in their family. They explain the rules to their children. If the children do something wrong, but do not know the rules yet, they will not be punished. But if the children know the rules and still disobey, then they will be punished.

When we become a Christian, we learn about God’s rules in the Bible. Then we can’t say, “I don’t know what God wants me to do.” We can read these rules and know what God wants us to do. But if we know these rules and still disobey them, God will punish us.

We read in the Old Testament that God punished the Jews when they disobeyed His laws. In Hebrews 10:29 we learn what will happen to people who do not follow God’s rules today. ***“So think how much more punishment people deserve who show their hate for the Son of God — people who show they have no respect for the blood sacrifice that began the new agreement and once made them holy or who insult the Spirit of God’s grace.”***

Think about your life today. Be sure that you do not turn away from Jesus like the Christians mentioned in Hebrews. Instead, stay in Jesus. Obey God’s rules and do what He wants you to do.

– Jennifer Forrester

**Suggested Bible Reading**  
**Hebrews 10:26-31**

Thursday, August 30

## Courage and Joy

Many Christians today do not face any persecution. No one hurts them or threatens them because they follow Jesus. But there are many Christians around the world who are severely persecuted. Sometimes these Christians lose their homes and possessions. And sometimes they are killed because of their faith in God.

Most persecuted Christians remain strong in their faith and encourage other Christians to continue following Jesus. They can do this because they know that life on earth is temporary. Someday they will experience the joys and blessings of eternal life.

Sometimes you may face small persecutions in your life. Maybe someone makes fun of you for reading your Bible or going to church. Hebrews 10:35-36 tells us what we should do when people are persecuting us. ***“So don’t lose the courage that you had in the past. Your courage will be rewarded richly. You must be patient. After you have done what God wants, you will get what he promised you.”*** That promise is the joy of living forever with Him!

It is hard to have courage and joy when facing persecution. But if we continue to have faith in God, He will help us through those bad times. Think about these things today as you face difficult situations.

– Jennifer Forrester

**Suggested Bible Reading**

**Hebrews 10:32-39**

## Bible Characters

Unscramble the names of Bible characters mentioned in the devotions in this book. If you need help, look at the devotion for the date that is listed. (The answers are at the bottom of page 64.)

1. MABRA (May 10)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. LAUP (June 19)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. ELABLZE (July 23)  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. SOMSE (May 1)  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. BRAHA (August 3)  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. OHRTEJ (June 15)  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. NANOJHAT (August 4)  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. NOARA (May 8)  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. SSUJE (July 19)  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. OSHAUJ (August 1)  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. IRIMAM (June 10)  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. ADIDV (August 4)  
\_\_\_\_\_



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Answers to “Bible Characters” on page 63: 1. Abram, 2. Paul, 3. Bezalel, 4. Moses, 5. Rahab, 6. Jethro, 7. Jonathan, 8. Aaron, 9. Jesus, 10. Joshua, 11. Miriam, 12. David