

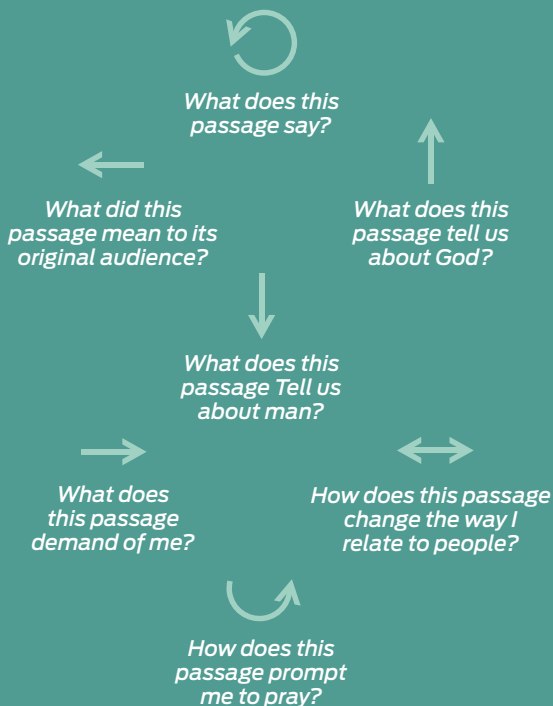
Daily Devotions



Day 1

Exodus 13:1-16

The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



God commanded His people to consecrate—set apart as the Lord’s—every firstborn male, both humans and animals. All the earth and its inhabitants belong to the Lord, not just the firstborn (Psa. 24:1). Why consecrate the firstborn males? Because God wanted His people to remember what He had done in Egypt—how He spared the firstborn from the plague of death by the blood of a lamb.

In this command, God called His people to look back and ahead. God’s rescuing His people out of Egypt did not start or end with providing life for the firstborn males during Passover. He also provided life to all the people by rescuing them through the Red Sea, providing food and water, and guiding them through the wilderness. But all of these acts of God’s deliverance pointed toward a greater rescue—the one from sin and death that would come through Christ. This is what He wanted them to understand. Their rescue, as amazing as it was, pointed to this greater rescue ahead—a rescue promised in Genesis 3:15 and fulfilled in Christ Jesus.

How does looking back at God’s work in your life help you look ahead with hope and assurance?

Exodus 13:17-22

This passage is short, but packed full of important details of the Exodus account. In this brief text, we see the depth of God's guidance of His people toward the promised land. Joseph's prophecy and request were fulfilled in Genesis 50:22-26. God was not only guiding His people, but He was also with them.

The more we know and learn about God, who He is and what He has done in and through Jesus Christ, the more we'll be in awe of Him and the more we'll be driven toward mission, wanting to make His name great across all the Earth.

How have your studies of God in Scripture grown your understanding of Him and helped you live on mission?

Exodus 14:1-12

God's ways are amazing. He planned to receive *glory*, or *weightiness*, through Pharaoh's hardened heart (it refused to give Him glory). And in the end, that is what happened (14:31; 15). Pharaoh's pursuit of his glory resulted in God receiving glory. This is how God works—He can use everything and anything for His glory.

What about us? We have been called to give God glory in all we do (1 Cor. 10:31). But how will we do this? Will we be like Pharaoh, used by God while being unaware or even unwilling? Or will we engage with God on His mission to proclaim His glory to the nations? God gives us opportunities each day to do this—to show those around us how beautiful and amazing He is, to show an unbelieving world the gospel. Let us be a people who seek these opportunities and then take advantage of each one as we rest in God's power to make the most of them.

How has God positioned you to show His glory to others around you today? The rest of the week?

Exodus 14:13-31

If you have ever walked through mud, you know how difficult it can be. Actually, very few of us have ever *walked* through mud, we usually *trudge* through it. Now, imagine the children of Israel stepping foot onto the floor of the Red Sea—imagine how deep and heavy that mud would have been. How slippery any rocks on the floor would have been. These things would have been true had God not dried it. Instead, God’s people crossed the Red Sea on dry ground, surely making their travel much easier and faster as the Egyptians closed in hot pursuit.

What miracles of God have strengthened and deepened your faith the most? Why?

Exodus 15:1-21

Israel got it wrong almost every time throughout the Book of Exodus. They refused to trust God over and over again. They grumbled against Moses and God. But this generation did have their moments, like this one where they worshiped God on the far bank of the Red Sea. Exodus 15 records a wonderful song of worship God’s people declared to the Lord. God had just rescued them through the waters of judgment and this time they didn’t miss the opportunity to give God the worship due Him.

In this moment, we are reminded of our need to be aware, because there are plenty of times when we have more in common with Israel in Exodus than we care to admit. We can be just as clueless—perhaps more even. We can also miss times to offer God the worship due Him. This isn’t just in the “high” moments like Israel experienced in Exodus 14-15. We need to fight to worship God without ceasing—in the “highs” of life, as well as the “lows.” This is our goal: to respond properly to God’s day-by-day, minute-by-minute acts of grace and mercy in our lives.

What has God done today that is worthy of worship?