

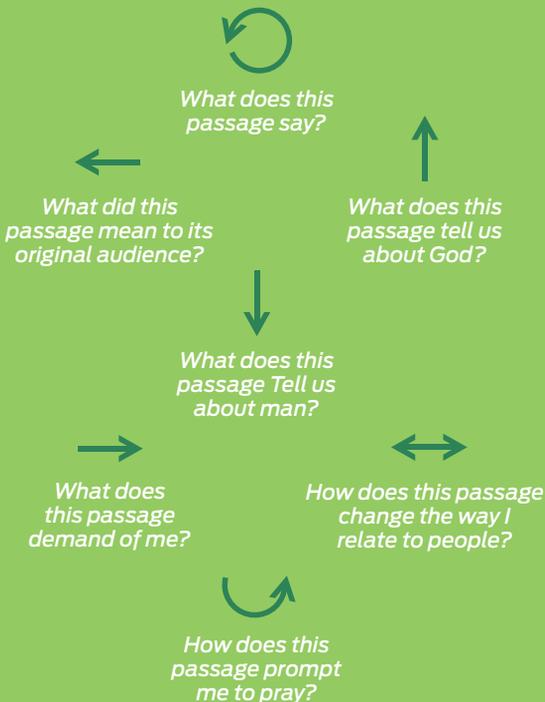
Daily Devotions



Day 1

Genesis 3:17-19

The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Sin is continually crouching at our door (Gen. 4:7), waiting for just the right time to whisper lies. The evil one does not want us to succeed at obeying God. Satan wants us to doubt and fear and take matters into our own hands by getting us to doubt the wisdom and goodness of God. The serpent distorts truth and weasels his way into our lives looking for an opportunity to spin his web of deception.

Both Adam and Eve got tangled in this web. They listened to the evil one's whispers instead of the echoes of God's earlier command (2:16-17). With this disobedience came grave consequences. Though Christ would eventually come to make right what Adam wronged, the ramifications of the fall are still evident.

As we await God's final restoration of all things, let us be on guard against the serpent's attempts to undermine our trust in the goodness of God.

In what area of your life are you struggling to trust God? How can you better defend against Satan's attacks against your view of God's goodness?

Luke 3:23-38

I doubt you have these verses framed and hung on your wall. Genealogies are typically not what you would call a crowd favorite. They are repetitive, many of the names are hard to pronounce, and (quite honestly) reading them can seem pointless. What does a list of old men have to do with all we've studied so far?

Yet, genealogies are part of God's perfect Word to us. They usually serve to drive home a point and are typically geared toward the original audience. For example, in the Book of Matthew (which was written primarily to a Jewish audience to demonstrate that Jesus is indeed the Christ), the author uses ancestry to prove Jesus as a descendant of King David from whom the Messiah was promised to come (Matt. 1:1-17).

The Book of Luke, however, was written for a broader, universal audience. Luke links Jesus back to King David, but continues the line all the way back to Adam, thus portraying Jesus as the Messiah for all of mankind, not just the Jews. Jesus is not only the Son of David but also the Son of Adam, indeed the Last Adam, who stands related to all humankind.

Who in your life needs to hear about the truth of who Jesus is?

Romans 5:12-15

Have you ever noticed finger prints on the television screen, computer, or windows throughout the house? If you have smaller siblings, chances are you have first-hand experience of the way little kids like to touch everything in the house with their sticky little fingers. And of course, the problem is exaggerated when little kids make a mess of what was otherwise a clean setting. Maybe mom just wiped down the table or cleaned all the smudges off the window only to have junior eat a chocolate bar and forget to clean his hands before touching the walls and windows.

Our sin is somewhat similar. The gravity of our sin stems back to who God is. A smudge against that which is already dirty appears not to be that big of a deal. But the same smudge of sin is infinitely offensive to our infinitely holy God.

Do you see your sin as a small blemish? Do you tend to compare your sin to the standards of those around you or to the standard of our perfect God?

Romans 5:16-17

You may have thought this week as we've studied, "Man, Adam really messed it up for us all." And you would be right to think this. Adam really did mess everything up and the consequences of his offense have been rightly severe—not only for him but for you and me as well. However, before we go wagging our fingers at Adam, we need to realize that though we inherited the sin and guilt that originated from Adam, we each have made plenty of our own mistakes. We've each individually sinned. We've each individually offended a holy God. We each individually deserve the wrath of God.

If we're honest, we can see that if given the chance, we would have ultimately messed up perfection as well. Thankfully, Christ has conquered the sin of Adam and replaced condemnation with justification. And now, grace reigns.

How can you express praise and thankfulness to God right now for His rescuing you from condemnation and declaring you to be righteous in Christ?

Romans 5:18-21

Sin can be defined as "missing the mark." It is less than perfection. We also see another word in these verses, "trespass," which has more of a crossing-the-line connotation. We use the same idea with the word trespassing. If we cross over into someone else's property uninvited, that is trespassing.

The notion of trespassing indicates there is a line to be crossed. However, the problem is that many of us feel as if we can live comfortably as close to the line as possible without stepping over. Instead of running far away from the good and right boundaries God has placed on our lives, we try to get away with as much as we can without crossing the line. Yet the reality of our hearts is that more likely than not, if we've already taken so many steps toward the property of sin, once we are there at the line, it will be incredibly hard to stop that forward progression.

Do you intentionally flee from sin or do you tend to creep up as close as you can to it? Why?