

Day 1

Chrissy Davis HCC

Read

1 John 1: 5-10 *"5 This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. 6 So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. 7 But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin."*

Think

John is saying that one of the first parts of following Jesus is walking in the light of God. This means that we realize our own sinful nature and realize that the only way to be made right with God and freed from the weight of sin is to run to Jesus. To his words, to his life and to his spirit. As obey Jesus' command to love God with all we have and to love others as ourselves we are transformed to be a more mature complete version of ourselves.

Reflect

Where is your life, are you hiding in darkness? Maybe you tend to judge others thinking that the way you would do something is better than how they handled it. I challenge you to look at Jesus' humility and allow it to change your heart. Maybe you have a lot of negative self talk, you look in the mirror and think I am an imposter living in someone else's story. I would challenge you to look to Jesus' thoughts about you. He calls you his beloved, his friend, the priesthood, sons and daughters of the most high king. He saw your life as so valuable that he laid down his life so you could experience freedom from the weight of sin. Confess you sin and run to Jesus he is the one who transforms you.

Pray

Jesus thank you for being an advocate for me. You fight for me to experience a life in communion with God and in service of others. The very life that you lived. Would you awaken my heart with your light and reveal any darkness that is in me? Amen.

Day 2

Dan Self - WCC

Proverbs 26:2

"Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest."

Think

The proverbs are constantly causing the reader to consider the content of their words, precisely because what someone says is directly related to what is in that person's heart. Think about what this verse is saying- gossip, slander, speaking ill of someone else: these things are actually bringing into existence something evil, and something that doesn't fade quickly. Evil things spoken have a knack of expanding and mobilizing.

Reflect

Consider your words. Everything you say is bringing something into existence! You are either introducing something new (good or evil), or you are reinforcing a way of thinking that already exists. Christ followers are in the business of bringing life into the world- this means speaking truths about God and how he sees his people. "Curses" bring falsehood into the world because they speak against the truth of every person on earth: they are dearly loved by God.

Pray

Lord, words are important- if they weren't, you wouldn't have given us the ability to speak, and you wouldn't have commanded us to *speaking the truth in love*. We repent of any evil we may have brought into the world through our words, and we humbly ask that you would equip us with the ability to root out our inclination to do so. Show us what it means to introduce your truth into the world.

Day 3

Dayne Scanlon - BCC

Read

Mark 10:42-45

42 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 43 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Think

It's wild to consider the power structure that God finds pleasing modeled by Jesus. Imagine if we lived in a world, where everyone's desire was to serve others rather than be served by others. Our world would look drastically different, and we as Christians have the ability, and I'd argue responsibility to set that tone! So start really small, don't think about how you can globally serve the entire world, who is in your house right now, that you can serve?

Reflect

I'm conscious of the fact that the power struggle in America is completely out of order, and Jesus' words 2000+ years ago, are still applicable. Rather than focus on the bad, and how power is abused by others that you might see in headlines, focus on yourself. What power have you been given, and how are you wielding it?

Pray

Lord,

Thank you for the influence and power that you've trusted me with. I ask for forgiveness where I've failed to use my power and influence to protect and honor others. God, please help me show love and honor to everyone you've put in my life today, by serving them, rather than being served by them.

Thank you for perfectly modeling what humble service looks like.

AMEN

Day 4

Marty Miranda

Read

SINCE WE ARE LIVING BY THE SPIRIT let us follow the SPIRIT'S LEADING in EVERY part of our lives." - Galatians 5:25 NLT

Think

If you've ever been to the coast and watched the waves break, you know that even something as powerful as a wave will eventually crash. Without a continual surge and filling, the wave's progress stops at the shore.

This is what the Christian life is like. When Jesus died on the cross he said, IT IS FINISHED. Everything necessary for you to have a relationship with God is set and completed with Jesus' death and resurrection. But now you and I need the continual surge of the Holy Spirit to lead us and keep us activated!

Reflect

The Holy Spirit works to change us and make us look more like Jesus. As Christians, our goal is to be filled with and to keep in step with the Spirit in every area of our life. What does it mean to you to have the Holy Spirit leading every area of your life today?

Pray

Holy Spirit, I live by you, and want to follow your leading in every area of my life. Fill my life, and produce your fruit through my life. Activate me to know you, love you and follow you to love others today. Amen.

Day 5

Josie Self - WCC

Read

“The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?” **Psalm 27:1**

Think

The world can feel very dark on some of these days. But what does it mean that the Lord is our light? What does it look like for Him to illuminate the parts of our lives that seem dark and confusing? In times like these, we look to no one but Jesus for strength. He alone is our salvation, our hope, and our strength.

Reflect

Take a moment to think about the things that feel dark and confusing right now. Maybe you won't be returning to school this year or you don't know if you'll be having a graduation. Maybe you know someone who's health is struggling or your parent lost their job. Now take a few deep breaths and invite the Lord's light and strength into these dark situations. Breathe in His hope and breathe out your fear.

Pray

God, thank you for being my light and strength. Thank you that there is no one greater than you and that in you alone we find our salvation. Help me to turn to you first when I am afraid. Please illuminate the dark situations in my life right now and help me to see where you are moving for my good. I trust you completely, God. Amen.