



Devotional

Oct. 4 - Dec. 30

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WEEK ONE (OCTOBER 4–10)

Day 278: October 4, 2020

Full Plan: Luke 15:1–16:31

Abbreviated Plan: Luke 11:1–13; 37–54

Luke 15 reminds us that God loves finding lost things: a sheep, a coin, a prodigal son ... and us. It's followed by Luke 16, which is about wealth: gaining it dishonestly, flaunting it, and not sharing it. Luke 15 tells us we have been found by grace; Luke 16 tells us we should respond to that grace with a faithful use of our finances.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 279: October 5, 2020

Full Plan: Luke 17:1–18:43

Abbreviated Plan: Luke 22:1–38

Luke 17-18 reminds us of what it means to follow Jesus: forgiveness (17:3), gratitude (17:16), persistence (18:5), humility (18:14), generosity (18:22), and faith (18:42). It is a good list to aim for every day.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 280: October 6, 2020

Full Plan: Luke 19:1–47

Abbreviated Plan: Luke 22:39–71

Luke 19 begins with Zacchaeus, who welcomed Jesus into his house then decided to give half his money to the poor. It ends with Jesus cleaning God's house of those who monetized the Temple for personal gain. Jesus is serious about our relationship with wealth.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 281: October 7, 2020

Full Plan: Luke 20:1–21:37

Abbreviated Plan: Luke 23:1–32

It's always important to remember that Jesus' greatest rebukes were not at people who were irreligious non-believers, but against religious people who were hypocritical, dogmatic, and who cared little for the oppressed. In what ways are we like that?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 282: October 8, 2020

Full Plan: Luke 22:1–71

Abbreviated Plan: Luke 23:33–56

Luke 22: The disciples who shared in Jesus' last meal included Judas who would betray him, Peter who was blind to his pride, and the rest who fought for power. Jesus doesn't pick perfect people to follow him, but calls us to learn how to follow him faithfully.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 283: October 9, 2020

Full Plan: Luke 23:1–56

Abbreviated Plan: Luke 24:1–35

The gospel that opens by elevating the role of women also emphasizes the role that women played at the end of Jesus' life. Jesus blesses the barren (Lk 23:29), tells us women were with him until the end (v 49), and prepared him for burial (v 55). In what ways can we be more honoring of women?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 284: October 10, 2020

Full Plan: Luke 24:1–53

Abbreviated Plan: Luke 24:36–53

Luke 24: It's no accident that both the Emmaus people and the disciples did not recognize the resurrection until they all ate together. It's why an open table is important: everyone is invited to experience new life in Christ for themselves.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

October 4–10, 2020: Weekly Devotion by Amy Kerr

Luke 15:4-7 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

The Parable of the Lost Sheep is a great illustration of Jesus's love for us and his desire for us to follow him. Jesus loves us just as we are, and we are reminded in Luke 15:2 that he welcomes sinners and eats with them. For despite our flaws and shortcomings

Jesus loves us and recognizes the uniqueness in which we were all made. He shows us that when we are lost and wandering in the wilderness, we are not lost to him. There are likely times in everyone's faith journey where they feel far from God, and as if he may not even see them. Or we may even drift so far that we feel our sins now define us. Jesus welcomes all back, even sinners. Not only does he welcome us back, but he rejoices in our return and repentance. What a feeling to know the joy he feels from the repentance of our sin!

Prayer: Lord you know me, all of me. I remember the love you have for each of us, even your lost sheep who are found again. I ask for your forgiveness of my sin. In your name we pray, amen.

WEEK TWO (OCTOBER 11–17)

Day 285: October 11, 2020

Full Plan: John 1:1–2:12

Abbreviated Plan: John 1:1–18, John 2:1–11

John 1 is a reboot of Genesis 1: Both open with "In the beginning." God spoke creation into being. (The Word was with God; the Word was God.) God said let there be light. (In him was life, and the life was the light for all people). God separated the waters (Jesus' first sign involved transforming water.) We can be part of God's new creation in the world today.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 286: October 12, 2020

Full Plan: John 2:13–3:36

Abbreviated Plan: John 3:1–36

The most famous verse in the New Testament (John 3:16) is a response to a man questioning Jesus in the dark (3:2) which itself was a response to Jesus upsetting conventional wisdom (2:13-16). Darkness and doubt aren't fun, but they can be the gateways to new understanding.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 287: October 13, 2020

Full Plan: John 4:1–54

Abbreviated Plan: John 4:1–42

In John 4, Jesus was physically tired, thirsty, and hungry. But his deeper hunger was satisfied when he shared the good news with someone who was spiritually searching (v 33). Physical food satisfies for a short while. Spiritual food impacts eternity.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life: