



Devotional

Oct. 4 - Dec. 30

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Week One.....5
Week Two.....9
Week Three.....14
Week Four.....18
Week Five.....24
Week Six.....29
Week Seven.....33
Week Eight.....38
Week Nine.....43
Week Ten.....49
Week Eleven.....55
Week Twelve.....61
Week Thirteen.....65

flashing in the sunshine.” We are grateful to see that brightness illustrated in the example she has set in praying without ceasing.

WEEK TEN (DECEMBER 6–12)

Day 341: December 6, 2020

Full Plan: Philemon 1–25

Abbreviated Plan: Philemon 1–25

In Philemon, we are reminded of how disruptive God’s grace can be. It can unsettle dysfunctional relationships and reset them in love and reconciliation. In what way does your desire to follow Jesus put you at odds with others and the world, who don’t understand the way of Jesus?

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

Day 342: December 7, 2020

Full Plan: Hebrews 1:1–3:19

Abbreviated Plan: Hebrews 1:1–3; 2:10–18

Hebrews 1-3 poses and answers these questions: Do you want to understand who God is? Look at Jesus. Do you want to know who Jesus is? Read the Scriptures. Do you want to understand the Scriptures? Rely on the Holy Spirit. Do you want to rely on the

Spirit? Listen and believe in God.

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

Day 343: December 8, 2020

Full Plan: Hebrews 4:1–6:20

Abbreviated Plan: Hebrews 3:1–6; 3:12–19; 4:1–2

Hebrews 4-6 describes Jesus as our high priest, who reconciles us with God through his dual, human/divine nature (5:1-10) In Jesus, God is transcendent enough to remind us that we are not God, and imminent enough to remind us that we are not alone.

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

Day 344: December 9, 2020

Full Plan: Hebrews 7:1–9:28

Abbreviated Plan: Hebrews 7:1–28

Hebrews 7-9 says that Jesus is the high priest whose self-sacrifice fulfilled the sacrificial requirement for our salvation. A modern way

to see it is that Jesus' willing subjection to violence exposed and ended the notion of redemptive violence. How will you commit yourself to peace and non-violence?

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

Day 345: December 10, 2020

Full Plan: Hebrews 10:1–11:40

Abbreviated Plan: Hebrews 10:1–39

Hebrews 10-11 reminds us that while we are not saved BY good works, we are saved FOR good works. Our salvation in Jesus bears a responsibility: to live with a pure conscience before God and to provoke acts of love for each other. (10:22-24)

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

Day 346: December 11, 2020

Full Plan: Hebrews 12:1–13:25

Abbreviated Plan: Hebrews 11:1–40; 12:1–2

If most of Hebrews is about how Jesus offered himself as a sacrifice for us, it ends with how we can live as an offering to God. Hebrews 13 is a worthy daily to-do list for a life well-pleasing to God, and verses 20-21 sum up the whole book.

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

Day 347: December 12, 2020

Full Plan: James 1:1–2:26

Abbreviated Plan: James 1:1–27

James and John go hand in hand, not just as brothers and disciples, but also in the books named after them. John emphasizes belief, and James emphasizes behavior. Both are necessary in the Christian life and inform the other. We are not saved by good works, but we are saved for good works. Faith without works is dead, but works done without faith is empty. Today, let's ask ourselves, "What will I do to demonstrate my faith and show it in love for others?"

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

December 6–12, 2020: Weekly Devotional by Ed Cronyn

These chapters reveal the inextricable bond between the good news of mercy and salvation on the one hand and our frailties on the other, which together form the foundation of our faith: humility, repentance, obedience and service. In Philemon, we read that the runaway slave and the imprisoned missionary, both facing consequences for their pursuit of freedom, come to each other's aid as brothers in Christ, who sacrificed Himself for them. In Hebrews and James, that same message of hope and solidarity includes all who face challenges:

“It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist . . . should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. . . My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.” (Hebrews 2:10; James 1:2-4, NRSV).

So here's the paradox: challenges produce struggles, which offer the opportunity to lean both on God and one another, ultimately resulting in the joy of knowing Him and one another more fully. Even during times of our own struggle, we are called to a faith which is active and demonstrable as we coming alongside others in their time of need. Having accepted salvation from the one who sacrificed His own life for us, we find both hope for ourselves and encouragement to act in mercy towards those around us.

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above. . . Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who

deceive themselves. . . Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.” (James 1:17,22,27, NRSV).

Challenge: When have you felt closer to Christ: during times of difficulty and struggle, or in times of relative comfort? How do your own experiences with hardship and these scriptures motivate you towards love, generosity, justice and caring for others in need?

Prayer: God, thank you for your mercy, lifting us up when we are down and giving us the strength to do your work with and through one another. Help me to show your love and mercy to others.

WEEK ELEVEN (DECEMBER 13–19)

Day 348: Decemer 13, 2020

Full Plan: James 3:1–5:20

Abbreviated Plan: James 5:1–20

There's so much practical guidance in James. Tame your tongue, resist envy, be humble, pray for others, and help them restore their faith. And it ends with where it began: practice patience amid your suffering, and it will strengthen your heart. (5:7-11)

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