

MONDAY: Invitation to Instruct

Receive this Invitation:

As we start a new year in 2021, I have felt that the Lord has given me a new passion and desire to understand His name and who HE is. With everything we have been through this past year, it feels like a reset button has been pushed. My desire has grown to want to know my creator better, to truly know His character and His love for me - to start over from the beginning. One of the ways I have started this is through reading the bible in a year. There are a lot of books in the bible, especially in the Old Testament, I have never read before and I want to understand the full story of scripture. Often times when we don't understand the big picture, it's hard for us to appreciate who God is and what He is doing in our lives. I believe digging deeper into scripture will strengthen my understanding of the relationship between God and humanity and the beauty of the love our Creator has for His creation. I invite and encourage you to join me in studying and diving deeper into the story of the Bible for the next 40 days. Let God reveal His character to you, let Him show you His grace and goodness towards us, and let Him show you where you have a role and participation in the story as well.

(Laura Marvets)

TUESDAY: Read, Reflect, Respond, and React

Read:

Read these passages of Scripture.

God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.

(1 Corinthians 1:30, NLT)

I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God.

(Ephesians 1:16-17, NLT)

Reflect:

Write your thoughts about this passage.

Respond:

Pray this prayer.

I ask you, good Jesus, that as you have graciously granted me sweetly to partake of the words of your wisdom and knowledge, you will also grant that I may some time come to you the fountain of all wisdom, and always appear before your face, who lives and reigns, world without end. Amen.

(Venerable Bede)

React:

How will you engage in study today?

WEDNESDAY: Read, Reflect, Respond, and React

Read:

Read these passages of Scripture.

And don't be afraid of the people, for I will be with you and will protect you. I, the Lord, have spoken!" Then the Lord reached out and touched my mouth and said, "Look, I have put my words in your mouth! Today I appoint you to stand up against nations and kingdoms. Some you must uproot and tear down, destroy and overthrow. Others you must build up and plant." Then the Lord said to me, "Look, Jeremiah! What do you see?" And I replied, "I see a branch from an almond tree." And the Lord said, "That's right, and it means that I am watching, and I will certainly carry out all my plans."

(Jeremiah 1:8-12, NLT)

Reflect:

Write your thoughts about this passage.

Respond:

Pray this prayer.

Grant, Almighty God, that since you are pleased kindly to invite us to yourself, and have consecrated your Word for our salvation—O grant that we may willingly, and from the heart, obey you, and become so teachable, that what you have designed for our salvation may not turn to our perdition; but may that incorruptible seed by which you regenerate us into a hope of the celestial life so drive its roots into our hearts, and bring forth fruit, that your name may be glorified; and may we be so planted in the courts of your house, that we may grow and flourish, and that fruit may appear through the whole course of our life, until we shall at length enjoy that blessed life which is laid up for us in heaven, through Christ our Lord.—Amen.

(John Calvin)

React:

How will you engage in study today?

THURSDAY: Read, Reflect, Respond, and React

Read:

Read these passages of Scripture.

"Look, God is all-powerful. Who is a teacher like him?"

(Job 36:22, NLT)

The Sovereign Lord has given me his words of wisdom, so that I know how to comfort the weary. Morning by morning he wakens me and opens my understanding to his will.

(Isaiah 50:4, NLT)

Reflect:

Write your thoughts about this passage.

Respond:

Pray this prayer.

Be gracious, O Instructor, to us your children, Father, Charioteer of Israel, Son and Father, both in One, O Lord. Grant to us who obey your precepts, that we may perfect the likeness of the image, and with all our power know Him who is the good God and not a harsh judge. And you yourself cause that all of us who have our conversation in your peace, who have been translated into your commonwealth, having sailed tranquilly over the billows of sin, may be wafted in calm by your Holy Spirit, by the ineffable wisdom, by night and day to the perfect day; and giving thanks may praise, and praising thank the only Father and Son, Son and Father, the Son, Instructor and Teacher, with the Holy Spirit, all in One, in whom is all, for whom all is One, for whom is eternity, whose members we all are, whose glory the eons are; for the All-good, All-lovely, All-wise, All-just One. To whom be glory both now and forever. Amen.

(Clement of Alexandria)

React:

How will you engage in study today?

Reflect:

Write your thoughts about this passage.

Respond:

Pray this prayer.

Almighty, eternal, just, and merciful God, give to us wretches to do for you what we know you to will, and to will always that which is pleasing to you; so that inwardly purified, inwardly illumined and kindled by the flame of the Holy Ghost, we may be able to follow in the footsteps of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and by your grace alone come to you the Most High, who in perfect Trinity and simple Unity lives and reigns and glories, God Almighty forever and ever. Amen.

(Francis of Assisi)

React:

How will you engage in study today?

FRIDAY: Read, Reflect, Respond, and React

Read:

Read these passages of Scripture.

Now may the God of peace— who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with his blood— may he equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him. All glory to him forever and ever! Amen.

(Hebrews 13:20-21, NLT)

SATURDAY: Read, Reflect, Respond, and React

Read:

Read these passages of Scripture.

Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. A large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat there and taught as the people stood on the shore. He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one: "Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

(Matthew 13:1-9, NLT)

Reflect:

Write your thoughts about this passage.

Respond:

Pray this prayer.

Almighty God and most merciful Father, we humbly submit ourselves, and fall down before your majesty, asking you from the bottom of our hearts, that this seed of your Word, now sown among us, may take such deep root, that neither the burning heat of persecution cause it to wither, neither the thorny cares of this life choke it, but that as seed sown in good ground, it may bring forth thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold, as your heavenly wisdom has appointed. And because we have need continually to crave many things at your hands, we humbly ask you, O heavenly Father, to grant us your Holy Spirit to direct our petitions, so that they may proceed from such a fervent mind as may be agreeable to your most blessed will.

(John Knox)

React:

How will you engage in study today?