

The title '52 DAYS' is rendered in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a thick black outline. The numbers and letters are filled with a dense pattern of small, multi-colored speckles (black, white, red, orange, blue, green). The background consists of a grid of colored squares in shades of green, blue, yellow, and red, set against a light gray brick wall texture. The numbers '52' are positioned above the word 'DAYS'.

52 DAYS

**A DEVOTIONAL
JOURNEY THROUGH
THE GOSPELS**

Thank you for choosing to go on this journey together as a church! I am confident that in the coming days as we continually expose ourselves to the Gospels, that the words and ways of Christ will mold and change us both individually and as a church. Let me encourage you to commit daily to the scripture reading and devotional thought— however if you get behind simply jump back onboard!

I encourage families to spend time together each week or even daily to discuss what God teaches them and how they as a family can be more like Jesus. Use the space at the end of each week to write any thoughts or notes that God has brought to your attention.

Some days you will be asked to complete a task— I challenge each of us to follow through with this challenge.

Each day has an accountability phrase that goes along with it. It was designed to be something that could be said, texted or posted for others to be reminded about their reading and to also show that they had completed theirs. It would be awesome to see and hear of our whole congregation encouraging each other to be a part of this great journey!

Get ready... God wants to work and move in your life and the life of your family and our church!

Let's dare to see what God might do!

- Ben

DAY 1

READ MATTHEW 1

Mary and Joseph must have been scared and worried about what was to come. The news they had been given was not easy to hear and even harder to believe. They had to trust in God and have patience for Him to work. As you begin this 52 day journey to grow closer to God, you too must have trust that God wants to work in and through you. He has entrusted much talent and responsibility to you. There will be times that you will not understand what God is doing to accomplish His will through you, times may be hard, but you must be patient and have faith.

Monday, January 8

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

HAVE FAITH

DAY 2

READ MATTHEW 2

When someone is chosen by God and chooses to live for His purposes, Satan immediately begins to try to destroy the effort before it ever gets started. He tried to do that through Herod when Jesus was a baby, and he will try to do it with you. Satan has already begun to interrupt your life and remove your focus from this great quest that you are on with God. Satan may try to use people or circumstances or he may simply count on your busy schedule. You need to actively look for Satan's distractions and choose to run from them! Avoid temptation and pray for strength today as you nurture your connection with the Lord.

Tuesday, January 9

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

FLEE EVIL

DAY 3

READ MATTHEW 3 & 4

God always prepares the way for His people. He used John to prepare the people's hearts to hear and accept the message of Christ, and he has been preparing you for this special journey. Jesus called the disciples to leave everything behind and he's calling you to do the same. He wants you to abandon your dreams and desires to Him— giving up control of your own life to that of his masterful hand. He has His own plans for you— plans much better than you can currently imagine! Even now He is preparing you for those plans... but these plans aren't some far off distant thing— they are a current urgent reality!

Similarly, He has plans and vision for our church that we must be willing to give everything for.

January 10

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

FOLLOW HIM

DAY 4

READ MATTHEW 5 & 6

Jesus showed that following God wasn't about following a bunch of rules. He showed that it was all about loving Him and because of that love, loving everyone else with the highest priority. He taught that the little things matter and that they quickly add up to big things. We are to keep an eternal perspective on our attitudes, our relationships, and even our possessions. Think about yesterday... was there somewhere or to someone that you didn't show love? Was there a time that you allowed some bad thoughts or attitudes about others to show themselves? Today choose love. Love your family... your friends... your teammates... your coworkers... choose to love your enemies and thus your God!

January 11

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

LOVE ALL

DAY 5

READ MATTHEW 7 & 8

Where is your foundation built? Is it on Christ the rock or on the shifting sands of the world? One test is to see if you find yourself doing what everyone else is doing. If you are, then you are probably not on God's path. Is the music you listen to and the movies you watch the same as the world? Are you gossiping or talking bad about others? These are signs that you haven't given everything up to follow Jesus and are living on the world's sand. A further test is to look at the fruit or actions of your life. Are they good? Are they Godly? Wherever you find yourself, these 52 days are meant to rebuild the foundation of your life on Christ. Right now pray and ask the Lord to help rebuild your foundation on Him.

January 12

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

BUILD ON CHRIST

DAY 6

READ MATTHEW 9 & 10

Two days ago we saw that following God would show itself by the love we show to others. In today's passage He takes it a step further showing that love equals action. Jesus demonstrated His love by having compassion on those that were in need around Him and by healing them of their illnesses and also of their sin. We must also put our money where our mouth is and let our actions show what we say we believe. We can't heal the sick, but we can visit and comfort them in need. We also offer through Christ relief from the burden of sin— their greatest need. Today show your love to a neighbor by either buying them a \$5 gift card to Starbucks or Sonic or going and asking them what you can do for them in Jesus' name.

January 13

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

SHOW YOUR LOVE

DAY 7

READ MATTHEW 11 & 12

Jesus said "no city divided against itself will stand." This is true of your life as well. If you only partially want the things of God, and also try to hold on to the things of this world (jealousy, gossip, slander, greed etc...) then you will not succeed in walking with Christ. You must either follow Him or not. Are all the things in your life things that might be considered righteous or acceptable to God? Again, look at what your life is producing. Is it edifying and beneficial to others around you or does it tear them down? As you change your life and habits, those around you will notice and either support you or ridicule you. That happened to Jesus and we can expect it to happen to us as well. Today, let someone know of this direction in your life and see how they respond.

January 14

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

DON'T BE DIVIDED

Week **1** reflections

DAY 8

READ MATTHEW 13 & 14

In these chapter, Jesus performed amazing miracles and told that although perhaps seemingly small now, the things of God will be the things that matter. Think of an item on ebay of great value to you that you normally could not afford. Now imagine that somehow it has been overlooked by others and is selling for a price that if you sold enough of your possessions you could buy it... would you? I sure would! That is what a relationship with Jesus is like— eternal and abundant life available and affordable if you will give everything for it. What value are you putting on it? Is it worth temporary pleasures and status? Identify your most prized possessions and determine if your relationship with God is worth more than those.

January 15

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

WHAT'S IT WORTH?

DAY 9

READ MATTHEW 15 & 16

What we do shows what we believe. When asked who Peter thought Jesus was, he made the declaration "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." How about you... do you believe the same thing? If so, it should be followed by your actions. If bad jokes, words or comments come from your mouth, then according to chapter 15 verse 18 you are defiled and do not truly believe in Him. A true follower produces good from his heart and in all situations denies himself, takes up His cross and follows Jesus. Today choose one thing that you normally would do in the morning to give up... maybe breakfast, a morning snack or coke, wearing makeup for the day or even texting or talking on the phone. Deny yourself of this, as a testimony of God being all you need.

January 16

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

HE IS ENOUGH

DAY 10

READ MATTHEW 17 & 18

As a believer and follower of Christ, you are in line to receive all the riches of the kingdom of God... however we must remember that God has called us to be humble servants that put others above ourselves. We are to look out for our fellow brothers and sisters. If we see them in sin, we are to gently bring them back to God. If you are hurt or wronged by them (and you will be) you are to forgive them unconditionally. Think of someone who wronged you recently whether it is by gossip, something they have said or done to you, or anything else. Right now, ask God to help you forgive them. Keep this on your mind the rest of the day and if you see that person, show God's love to them.

January 17

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

FORGIVE ALL

DAY 11

READ MATTHEW 19 & 20

Two blind men heard that Jesus was passing by and yelled for Him to come and heal them. The crowd around tried to get them to be quiet but they persisted and received through faith the healing they needed. Have you ever been like that crowd of people and have kept those who truly needed Christ from coming to Him? Perhaps you've seen people different from you at church and not truly considered the need they may have for Christ. Maybe it's someone of a different generation from you that you simply pass over and don't spend some time with them. Look around you today and take note of those "others" that you may not normally see. Decide now that you will take the time to help them or meet their need.

January 18

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

TAKE A LOOK

DAY 12

READ MATTHEW 21 & 22

In these chapters Jesus addresses many people who mistakenly thought they were following God. He told parables illustrating their evil and their misleading attitudes and actions and even said directly: "I tell you the truth, the tax collector's and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you." Could it be that as we look at *our* attitudes and actions that *we* are missing what it is to follow after God? One parable tells of people that were invited to a wedding feast, but at the time they were called upon they didn't show up. The host then instructed his servants to fill the place up with anyone they could find. *You* have been invited to be a part of an incredible journey with Christ- don't make Him find a replacement!

January 19

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

DON'T BACK OUT

DAY 13

READ MATTHEW 23 & 24

Jesus had a lot of warnings for people who said they were following Him but really weren't. He said that what really matters is the condition of a man's heart. No amount of great deeds can make up for an evil heart. He said we must clean ourselves on the inside, then the outer things will follow. We can come to church a thousand times or give to the needy every week, but if we truly don't want to follow after God, then we're wasting our time. Where is your heart? Do you have a daily desire to follow in His steps? Ask God to forgive you of your sins and to help you keep your mind, attitudes and actions clean.

January 20

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

CLEAN ME UP

DAY 14

READ MATTHEW 25 & 26

Are you prepared for the excitement and challenges that God has for you? Jesus told two stories depicting people who were entrusted with responsibility. Some of them were active and ready when the proper time came, but others were not. Do you realize that there are many opportunities that God has for you each week? The question isn't if they will come, but if you will be ready and looking for them! Don't be caught off guard and surely don't blow it like Peter did! It may be a surprise chance to share your faith or a great opportunity to help someone out, but whatever be willing and prepared for action! By reading the Word and this challenge today, you are preparing yourself for where God might use you, now just keep your eyes open for the proper time!

January 21

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

BE PREPARED

DAY 15

READ MATTHEW 27 & 28

Our entire faith hinges on these two chapters– the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. What were your emotions as you read this? Do you believe it? Can you believe it— this is awesome! God has provided victory over your failures!! Everything we have talked about before: life change, pure motives, good attitudes and eternal life are possible because of these astounding events!! God has saved you and now empowered you to share this incredible set of events! Today as you go, remember this incredible accomplishment and share it! Honor Christ's last request to you, His disciple... GO and TELL!!

January 22

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

CHRIST IS ALIVE

DAY 16

READ MARK 1

Right before Jesus began His public teaching, Satan tried to tempt Him into ruining God's plan. Jesus was tired and weary from fasting in the desert and Satan thought in this vulnerable state he could get Jesus to slip. If Satan thought Jesus was vulnerable, he must think we're an easy target! You have been faithfully spending time with God these past few weeks, but Satan wants to put a stop to it right now! He wants to ruin you either through temptation or maybe even a hard circumstance! Be very careful and aware that Satan wants you to fail! Pray right now that you will not give in to temptation or fall victim to the devil's schemes!

January 23

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

RESIST SATAN

DAY 17

READ MARK 2

Jesus told Levi to follow Him and Levi responded by immediately leaving his place of work and following Christ. The next thing we see is Levi giving all his friends the opportunity to know the forgiveness of Jesus. How quickly do you respond to what God asks of you? Are other things in life too important and delay your response? Jesus ate with "tax collectors and sinners" and was ridiculed for it. At school or work you have the opportunity to be around similar people— people who desperately need the life change and forgiveness that Jesus provides. Ask God to open your eyes to those in need of the forgiveness and in need of the comfort. Also ask Him to empower you to share it.

January 24

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

DON'T HESITATE

DAY 18

READ MARK 3 & 4

God has chosen and appointed you to show His light wherever you go. He knows the job you have and all the people that are in your path and consequently has put you in that exact spot to be His light. Too often we cover it up. Sometimes it's our sin or selfishness that keeps others from seeing it. Sometimes it's our fear of what others might think. That makes us intentionally hide the good news. Is there an obstacle in your life that keeps others from knowing and seeing God's great light through you? Examine your life right now and pray that any obstacle would be removed.

January 25

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

BE LIGHT

DAY 19

READ MARK 5 & 6

Even amidst being tired and weary, when Jesus saw people in need he had compassion on them and met those needs. How do you respond after a long day when you're tired and ready to be alone? Have there been people during those times who came into your path that needed some help, or perhaps just a little bit of attention and encouragement? Sure, it's easy to try to put it off until later, but we need to see them as Jesus does and in His strength minister to them as best we can. Today, really look at people and see their need. Ask the Lord to strengthen you and provide the insight and wisdom to minister in His name.

January 26

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

SEE THE PEOPLE

DAY 20

READ MARK 7 & 8

Jesus questioned his disciples by saying: "Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear?" They had been with Jesus for quite sometime and were still missing the point about much of what He did and said. When Jesus was talking about spiritual things, their minds were on the physical. Do you look for spiritual significance in every day things? Too often we do not do this and miss out on some amazing spiritual truths. Have there been any circumstances of your life that were challenging— if even for a day? Could there be spiritual things to learn and understand from that? Today begin to see every part of your journey that God allows as an opportunity for better spiritual understanding.

January 27

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

LEARN FROM ALL

Jesus said: "whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all." It seems that we are always striving to get ahead of others in whatever we do, whether it's in line, in a competition, or even the first to know what's going on. Yet, one of the most powerful ways we can demonstrate God's love is to choose to be a servant. It's not flashy and it will probably go unnoticed, but being a servant is to follow in Christ's footsteps. Today intentionally be a servant and choose a family member to serve. Below, write what you did to be a servant.

January 28

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

BE A SERVANT

Week **3** reflections

DAY 22

READ MARK 11 & 12

Jesus made an amazing example of a poor widow— he declared she had given more to the Lord than anyone else, despite it being a very low sum. In doing this He affirmed two things. First, following God comes down to where our heart is. Second, our reliance for every part of our life needs to come from Him— the lady had given “all she had to live on” but felt compelled to give it to God. Have you ever given sacrificially? Do you trust God enough to meet all of your needs that you will give whatever He asks of you? Right now, trust God and ask what He wants you to give to Him. Be faithful and trust Him with it by bringing it as an offering to Him this week.

January 29

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

GIVE YOUR OFFERING

DAY 23

READ MARK 13 & 14

Jesus guaranteed that we would face trials and persecutions. There's an easy way out of those trials— denying Him as Peter did. However, with that denial comes shame and regret. We are to hold true to the promise of Jesus' return and to the reward for those who persevere... how are you persevering this week? Are you able to look to Him and trust Him in all things. If life seems to be going bad, do you trust Him or deny Him? This week you will have an opportunity to either pledge your allegiance to Christ or deny it. It may be when others ask you to compromise your beliefs by lying, gossiping about others or even by including you on some inappropriate conversation. Will you deny Him by not taking a stand or will you stand tough to your beliefs and your Lord?

January 30

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

STAND TOUGH

DAY 24

READ MARK 15 & 16

Sometimes we must stare in the face the decision to believe in Christ and take hold of what He has for us, or to choose to ignore the reality of who He is. Pilate was faced with this same decision. He recognized that there was not fault in Jesus, and that to release the killer Barabbas was a horrible choice. Yet staring this situation square in the eyes, he decided to go with what would cause him less trouble. He gave in to the demands of the crowd and chose to ignore what He knew to be best. Have you had to do this recently? Have you had to make a decision where you would either recognize Christ's authority and make a decision one way or ignore it and go another way? Maybe peers or other factors skewed your reasoning. Determine today to consider Him first.

January 31

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

CONSIDER HIM

DAY 25

READ LUKE 1

This chapter contains several amazing events where things that seemed impossible became a reality with God. In the case of Zechariah, God had in store something so completely unexpected that he didn't believe it at first. He couldn't believe that at his stage in life God would give him a son and that his son would help bring change into the world. Do you ever doubt that God can and wants to use you? He has been working in you to do some great things for His kingdom. He may want you to share His story of salvation with others, journey on a mission trip or truly who knows what else! Don't be surprised at what our amazing God might choose to use you for— it is sure to be an adventure!

February 1

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

DON'T BE SURPRISED

DAY 26

READ LUKE 2

Often times we read this passage and think that Jesus was obviously an exceptional boy in tune with God and that we can never aspire to be as He was. While to some degree this is true, Through the Holy Spirit we have access to wisdom and the favor of God. Everyone who is dedicated to God's word and wants His best for their life can be full of wisdom and have God's grace on them. James 1 tells us that anyone who lacks wisdom should ask for it and that God will grant it. Right now ask God to grant you wisdom and favor. Repeat this simple prayer throughout the day and allow God's spirit to work in your life.

February 2

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

SEEK WISDOM AND FAVOR

DAY 27

READ LUKE 3 & 4

As God changes your life over the course of these 52 days, there will be times that your friends, family or co-workers that may discourage you because they remember how you used to be and the things you used to do. They may doubt that God is working in you and they will try to tell you that these changes are only temporary. Even Jesus had acquaintances that ignored Him simply because he had grown up in their city. Jesus didn't allow this to stop what God wanted to do and you shouldn't either. You must keep pressing on and trusting that God is still working on this new permanent adventure in your life! When you encounter doubt of God's work in you, just ask Him to confirm it through His spirit and people!

February 3

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

GOD IS WORKING

DAY 28

READ LUKE 5 & 6

It's easy to think that the main reason that so many people followed Christ was for the miracles and healings. However, in verse 2 of Chapter 1 it plainly states that they were pressing on Him to hear God's word. God's word holds the same power today as it did back then—the power to transform lives and to save the soul. As you minister in Jesus' name, or respond to others as He would, don't forget the whole reason you are doing it—to widely proclaim God's word! It's the same through our church—we do many types of ministries from Trunk or Treat to Extravaganza, but the whole point is so that God's word may be heard. Don't discount that at your school and at your place of work people are interested in what God says. Commit now that it won't just be your actions sharing Him, but that you will with your lips as well.

February 4

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

REMEMBER THE REASON

DAY 29

READ LUKE 7 & 8

Multiple times throughout these chapters people are amazed at all the things Jesus has authority over— the wind and waves, evil spirits, sin, sickness, and even death. Imagine, if someone alive today had power over those things! The media would swirl around them, and we would have daily reports of the amazing happenings! Our Savior and Lord exhibited this power and yet most did not believe the ultimate truth of His message. We should be wowed by the amazing things that He did, but we must also keep close to us the importance of who He was and what He did. Today, remember that He was the Son of God who chose to offer us forgiveness — and live in the reality that His words are full of truth and forgiveness that has saved our lives.

February 5

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

REMEMBER HIS TRUTH

DAY 30

READ LUKE 9

Can you imagine standing there and seeing the full glorious splendor of Jesus? We often confine our thoughts of Him to the pictures we see. Those often show a meek person with a kind look on his face— and this may be partly true. However, we must not forget that Jesus has a heavenly, kingly side that is today more of a reality than those other pictures! He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords... His presence is that of a magnificent radiant glory... His clothes shine like lightning and being around Him is to be overwhelmed by awe! Can you picture our glorious Savior in all of His glory? Do you have goose bumps yet? Take some time now whether by song or prayer to worship Him— your Creator, Father, King and Savior!

February 6

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

WORSHIP HIM

DAY 31

READ LUKE 10 & 11

Jesus modeled several elements that should be in our prayers. First, we should praise God. Take a minute and praise Him. Second we should confess our sins. Specifically do this now. Third, we need to thank Him for all that He has done for us. List some things to Him that you are thankful for. Fourth, we are to bring our request to Him. Jesus says if we will ask of the Lord, He will provide as a father does for his children. Ask your Lord for those things you need and tell Him of the concerns you have. Today throughout your path, acknowledge the Lord every step of the way!

February 7

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

ACKNOWLEDGE HIM

DAY 32

READ LUKE 12 & 13

Without a doubt there are times that it seems things just won't go right. Whether we forget important projects, are having family difficulties or are just frustrated, life can seem overwhelming. Jesus acknowledged the trials that life can bring, but also insisted that the Lord will provide for all our needs and that we shouldn't worry ourselves over them. He didn't say to ignore challenges or not to solve problems, but He commands us not to allow worry to clutter our life and remove our focus from Him. Think specifically about 2 worries you have right now ask God to help you solve and overcome them!

February 8

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

DON'T WORRY, TRUST HIM

DAY 33

READ LUKE 14 & 15

Jesus said that the cost to follow Him would be high, and He encouraged everyone who would consider following Him to first count the cost. What did it cost you when you first invited Him into your heart? Control of your life? Worldly pleasures? I'm sure you can think of some more. But what about the past 32 days? Has there been some things you've had to let go of? Maybe there's something you've been holding on to that it is finally time to remove from your life. Consider what that might be. If you can, chose to let go right now and tell someone... either your Sunday School teacher, spouse or ministry leader. If you can't, right now tell God that you're having trouble but want to give it to Him.

February 9

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

LET IT GO

DAY 34

READ LUKE 16 & 17

Jesus wasn't afraid to confront hypocrisy and in these passages he did so head-on. To some Pharisees who were consumed with their wealth and possessions he said: "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight." Where are you putting your value? Is it on possessions, popularity and ease of life or are you putting it on love, holiness and servanthood? Right now ask God to help you value those last three things as you go about your day.

February 10

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

VALUE HOLINESS

DAY 35

READ LUKE 18 & 19

In the parable of the two men who went to pray, we see two very different attitudes before God. The one was self confident, self-righteous and arrogant while the other was humble and repentant. Which one are you? Do you think you have it together and can handle things on your own? Are you proud of the way you serve God and the things you have to offer? I hope not. We are to go before the Lord humbly, recognizing our shortcomings and with the desire to follow Him in every aspect of our lives. Take a minute to examine your attitude of spirit and prayer and then humbly talk to the father using the structure we talked about earlier in the week.

February 11

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

HUMBLY PRAY

Week 5 reflections

DAY 36

READ LUKE 20 & 21

Responding to His disciples comments on how beautiful the temple was, Jesus said that eventually the physical walls of the building would be destroyed. In saying this Jesus tried to refocus his disciples from the things that are valued in this world to the reality of eternity. The reality is that our personal possessions are meaningless in the scope of eternity and that only the lives changed for the Lord will matter. Where is your attention? Do you strive to gain earthly possessions and influence or are you focused on the eternity of those around you? Today make a difference in eternity. Perform an action that shows God's love to others— maybe that's helping someone in need, sticking up for a friend or simply verbally sharing the message of Christ.

February 12

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

WHERE IS YOUR ATTENTION

DAY 37

READ LUKE 22

Knowing the trials that were coming in the day ahead, Jesus' attention was still focused on the Lord, but the disciples were quarreling about unimportant things. This time they were wondering which of them would be greatest in heaven. Jesus must have thought they hadn't learned a thing! Yet again, He told them that things in His kingdom didn't work like things in the world, and that the greatest would be the one that served the most humbly. Are you striving to get ahead or striving to serve? Don't get caught up in the competition of this world to have more things, friends and power. Get caught up in serving those around you and taking care of those in need. Choose to be the least among your friends and think right now of one way today that you can serve those around you.

February 13

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

BE THE LEAST

DAY 38

READ LUKE 23

Does this chapter stir up any emotion in your heart? Take a minute and sort out your thoughts and feelings. While He was dying on the cross, we see the two men hanging next to Him. One rejected Jesus and one accepted Him as the Son of God. Our world is made up of these two kinds of people— those who don't even realize or care that their own destruction is near, and the other that accepts their sin and turns to the One who can and will save them. As a believer, you have chosen the path of salvation and have hope for the present and have eternal paradise for the future as Jesus' death guaranteed our life. Thank Him for that now.

February 14

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

PARADISE IS COMING

DAY 39

READ LUKE 24

He is alive and our faith is confirmed!! In the account of the resurrection, it is interesting to see that Jesus didn't make this once, huge, grand appearance and then head off to heaven. Instead, He showed up at multiple, intimate times with specific people in special circumstances. We need to look and expect Him to show up in our lives in the same way. Do you expect Him to do an amazing work at our church? If you do that's good and He can, but He tends to more often appear and teach and lead when you are living your life focused on Him. Are you spending the time with Him you should? If you are, you can expect Him to appear and through the Holy Spirit to teach and guide you each step of the way. Look for Him today!

February 15

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

EXPECT HIM TO APPEAR

DAY 40

READ JOHN 1

This first chapter of John contains some amazing theology. It tells us first that Jesus is not just the Son of God, but that Jesus is God. It goes on to show Him as the creator of all things and also the sustainer of all things. We often times get caught up in Him being creator and miss this other ever important role. We as people can create things, but it is not left to us to sustain them. In our life, we need to learn to trust in Him through our whole life journey– not just in the easy times and not just in the hard times. Through everything life brings whether joyful, horrible or even in the very mundane Christ is with us and holding all things together in our lives and in the universe. Meditate on the fact that Christ is your sustainer through it all.

February 16

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

HE IS OUR SUSTAINER

DAY 41

READ JOHN 2 & 3

We saw here Jesus performing His first miracle, cleansing the temple, and talking to a Jewish teacher. However, let's think about a phrase that John the Baptist told to his own followers: "He must become greater, I must become less." At this time John had a large following of people and had been God's messenger to Israel to prepare them to see Jesus. It would have been easy for John to be jealous of Jesus and His new attention. Yet, John understood the role God intended for him to play. In our lives we need to have the same attitude. As we grow closer to God, others should see less of us and more of Christ. Are your own attitudes and thoughts decreasing and the attitudes of Christ increasing in your life? Pray right now that His light would outshine your own.

February 17

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

I MUST DECREASE

DAY 42

READ JOHN 4

Jesus took the message of God's forgiveness everywhere He saw people willing to accept it- no matter what society said about those people. In this chapter, Jesus shares with a Samaritan woman that most Jews would never talk to. Jesus saw the woman's need and took advantage of the opportunity to grant her forgiveness. Don't be afraid to do the same. As you go about your day, take note of who is in your path. Don't look at outward appearances or even your first impressions, ask God to reveal to you whom you need to give a drink of the living water! They may be hurting, worried or in distress. Have boldness and share the hope you have!

February 18

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

GIVE A DRINK

DAY 43

READ JOHN 5 & 6

Jesus said some things that on the surface offended and confused many people. As we read what He said perhaps we are too. However, just because we don't completely understand now, doesn't mean we shouldn't stick with Him and let Him continue to teach us. When you first entered an algebra class, you didn't understand what you would be learning, but you know that through time and with belief that your instructor has the credentials he or she says he does that you can learn it. That is the confession Peter made here. He didn't understand everything about what Jesus was saying, but he did know that Jesus was the "Holy One of God" and was the giver of eternal life. In other words, Jesus had the credentials and Peter knew that in time he would understand. Do you believe this?

February 19

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

TRUST THE TEACHER

DAY 44

READ JOHN 7 & 8

Of any one who has ever walked the earth, Jesus had the right and authority to pass judgment of people and their sin. He did this to those who were arrogant and self righteous, but to those who were broken and repentant He chose to forgive. We need to remember this as we go about our days. We are ourselves do not measure up to God's standard and we must not pass judgment on non-believers. Instead we are to show and offer grace to them. We have been forgiven of much, and we must in turn forgive much. Today be careful not to judge non-believers for their sins, but as Jesus showed compassion and help for those in need, you do the same.

February 20

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

SHOW COMPASSION

DAY 45

READ JOHN 9

We see here an account of a man born blind and that is healed. As we often do, people asked why had that trouble been with the man? Jesus responded by saying that the man was born blind so that God might work in his life. We should also see our own limitations and circumstances as a way for God to work in *our* lives. Are you going through some trials? Is someone being mean to you at school? Are there family troubles or struggles in your home? God can and will use those as a way to bring glory to Himself! We must acknowledge Him and His timeframe and stay focused on His word and direction! It is easier said than done, but if we will trust in Him, He can receive the glory!

February 21

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

LET HIM GET GLORY

DAY 46

READ JOHN 10 & 11

If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, then you are His sheep and He is your Shepherd. The more time you spend with Him, the easier it is to hear His voice and direction. The one who can heal the sick and raise the dead is the one for you to follow. These past 45 days you have been spending good time with Him. Take 5 minutes now and just listen for His voice. What has He said?

February 22

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

LISTEN FOR HIS VOICE

DAY 47

READ JOHN 12 & 13

There are some people described here that said they believed in Jesus but would not confess Him because they were afraid of what the others might do. They were said to "love the praise of men more than the praise of God." Do you ever fall in to this category? Do you fail to speak up for your convictions because you worry what it might bring or what others might think and even say about you? Don't be one of these people! Boldly stand up for your beliefs! Refuse to cower in an opportunity to share! Today as you go, take a stand for the Lord and without reservation follow His lead!

February 23

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

TAKE A STAND

DAY 48

READ JOHN 14 & 15

There are many beliefs on what it takes to get to heaven. Some peoples think doing more good than bad is what it boils down to. Others think that any religion is correct as long as you're "seeking". Jesus left no room for misinterpretation and that there is now way to God but through Him. It's not in doing good, or church attendance or giving away money or meditating. It's simply following Jesus. Yes, many of things are good and a result of knowing Him, but they cannot substitute for actually knowing and spending time with Him. Today as you do good things, take mental note that they aren't saving you but that they are a result of Him saving you.

February 24

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

HE IS THE WAY

In His last days with the disciples, Jesus told them of someone new that was to come to guide them. We know that someone as the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that the Spirit would be a counselor and a guide that would lead us into all truth. Have you ever had a situation where you had trouble knowing what the truth was? Perhaps you didn't know the best choice to make. If you will calmly listen to the Lord, He will guide you into what is best. A few days ago You spent some time just listening for God. Today, if you are dealing with an issue and need to hear truth, ask Him now. He will guide you in the right way!

February 25

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

HE WILL GUIDE

Week **7** reflections

DAY 50

READ JOHN 18 & 19

Here we have the fourth account of the crucifixion. Has it gotten more vivid for you? Is it more real? Jesus declared that "It is finished." Reflect for a minute on the implications of this. Jesus died to bring us back to God. He died to destroy Satan's hold on our lives. He died that we might have peace. Are there things in your life that need this great power of Jesus? Thank Jesus for making provision even for those things. And thank Him now for salvation you have received.

February 26

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

IT IS FINISHED

DAY 51

READ JOHN 20

As you reflect on the resurrection, hopefully there are no doubts in your mind that Jesus was the Son of God, and that He is the only way to God and heaven. Today, share your confidence in Him with at least one person who may be a doubter. Don't be frustrated with them, but be patient and kind. Maybe you do have some doubts about these Gospels. Jesus isn't mad or upset, He wants you to simply let go and trust Him. Even some of His own disciples had doubts, but He gave them time and more experience with Him so they would doubt no more. Depending on where you are personally, either share your confidence in Him or ask Him to share His light with you.

February 27

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

SHARE YOUR CONFIDENCE

In His last days with the disciples, Jesus told them of someone new that was to come to guide them. We know that someone as the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that the Spirit would be a counselor and a guide that would lead us into all truth. Have you ever had a situation where you had trouble knowing what the truth was? Perhaps you didn't know the best choice to make. If you will calmly listen to the Lord, He will guide you into what is best. A few days ago You spent some time just listening for God. Today, if you are dealing with an issue and need to hear truth, ask Him now. He will guide you in the right way!

February 28

ACCOUNTABILITY PHRASE:

FEED MY SHEEP



reflections

What could God do in the life of a person, family or church if they wholeheartedly dedicated themselves to the words and actions of Jesus?

Let's dare to find out together!