

The Holy Spirit is the One who is making us more and more like Christ. He uses Scripture and everyday life to form Christlikeness in us. Our job is to cooperate with God's grace at work in our life. One of the ways we can cooperate is by starting each day with the Word of God: **reading, studying, memorizing & praying God's Word**. The Holy Spirit will use the Word of God to release and form the life of Christ in us. This is how we *"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord."* - 2 Peter 3:18

Slowly and thoughtfully read the passage from God's Word each day. Think about it. Focus especially on the verse marked **Meditating on God's Word**. Then, say and repeat the memory verse several times. By the end of the week, you will have it memorized. Finally, in addition to whatever else you are talking to God about in your prayers each day also pray through the Scripture you read, turning it into a prayer.

Monday, May 13th

Reading God's Word: Luke 23:50-24:12, Psalm 61:1-8

Memorizing God's Word: John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Meditating on God's Word: Luke 23:50-51 Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God.

Praying God's Word: "Lord, I love that phrase, "now there was a man"... Thank you Lord for the women and the men who step up using their gifts, position, resources, and expertise to serve your kingdom. He was waiting for your kingdom. In some ways it may have been a simple task, but it was personal, buying spices and linen, taking your body down, washing it, wrapping it, and placing you in his own tomb. Praise you for the little ways that your people serve you. Grow me in sacrificial selfless love and service to you and to others. Amen."

Connecting to God through the Word and Prayer

Tuesday, May 14th

Reading God's Word: Luke 24:13-35, Psalm 62:1-6

Memorizing God's Word: John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Meditating on God's Word: Luke 24:25-27 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Praying God's Word: "Lord, grow in us a deep desire for your word, both Old and New Testaments. We need to understand the connections and continuity of your plans and heart for humankind. You never change; our salvation comes from you alone. Help us to see you in the scriptures. Show us Jesus and may we savor and worship Jesus. There is no other name by which we can be saved! Amen."

Connecting to God through the Word and Prayer

Wednesday, May 15th

Reading God's Word: Luke 24:36 - John 1:4, Psalm 62:7-12

Memorizing God's Word: John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Meditating on God's Word: John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Praying God's Word: "Lord, you're the same yesterday, today, and forevermore. You were with God from the beginning. Though we try to find life in all sorts of other things, in you alone do we find light and life! Jesus, would you be at the forefront of our minds. Would you be my first thought in the morning and my last thought at night. You are God, and I worship you and you alone today! Amen."

Connecting to God through the Word and Prayer

Thursday, May 16th

Reading God's Word: John 1:5-28, Psalm 63:1-11

Memorizing God's Word: John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Meditating on God's Word: Psalm 63:1 You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.

Praying God's Word: "Lord, We live in a spiritual desert. I am often filled with you, but then so quickly feel empty. The parched land steals the water right from me. I see hate and malice, greed and covetousness, excess and comfort. I need a cool drink from the fountain of living water. More than that, just let me jump in the water; saturate me, flood my soul with Your living water! I want to remain in the water never leaving, but always remaining in the life-giving water. Root out areas in my life where I return to the desert and show me the joys of living in the well. Amen."

Connecting to God through the Word and Prayer

Friday, May 17th

Reading God's Word: John 1:29-51, Psalm 64:1-10

Memorizing God's Word: John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Meditating on God's Word: John 1:46 "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip.

Praying God's Word: "Lord, you used all sort of men and women to build your kingdom. Even one like Nathanael who would be utterly unimpressed in one moment and then declare you are the Son of God in the next moment. We are fickle people. I am fickle. I judge, I look at the negative, I hate, I think I'm better than most. Can anything good come from Elyria? Avon Lake? Vermilion? May many "come and see" you Jesus. Not us...you. Amen."

Connecting to God through the Word and Prayer

Saturday, May 18th

Reading God's Word: John 2:1-25, Psalm 65:1-8

Memorizing God's Word: John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Meditating on God's Word: John 2:5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Praying God's Word: "Lord, Isn't that a funny phrase from Mary, even after you ask her, "why do you involve me?" She knew. She knew who you are. She knew your compassion. I need more of that type of faith and trust. We need to be more like Mary who knows...AND then shares with others "Do whatever he tells you." Give me devotion like Mary. Take away my hesitation and multiply my devotion. Amen."

Connecting to God through the Word and Prayer

Sunday, May 19th

Please use this day to reflect and meditate on the Scriptures used in the sermon, and to review your memory verse for the week. You may also want to use this day to revisit, catch up, and/or reflect more deeply on your reading from God's Word this week. And remember, He is Risen!

Memorizing God's Word: John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Connecting to God through the Word and Prayer