



Daily Devotional: Spiritual _____

Devotional Necessities: Bible, Pen/Pencil, Notebook/Journal, Bible Reading Plan

Quiet Place: _____ Regular Time: _____

1. _____, pray and discover what God communicated to them back then?

(Read Bible text and background information)

A. Setting: Identify the time and place of the text.

Place – What is the location of the target audience or the where is the story taking place?

Answer: A Jerusalem jail cell

Time – When is the activity in scripture taking place? *Answer: Days of Unleavened Bread*

(7 day festival following Passover)

B. Key People: Identify the key people in the story.

Author – Who wrote the text and/or who is narrator of the story? *Answer: Luke. His intent was to provide an accurate historical account of the gospel and that the Christian faith was being offered to Gentiles as well as to the Jews*

Audience – Who is the target audience of the scripture or who is the person in the Bible story speaking to? *Answer: Theophilus, Gentile audience*

Characters – Who are the key people in the story?

Biblical Narrative Rules – Identify God's Friends and Satan's Friends:

God's Friends – *Answer: Peter (Praying saints)*

Satan's Friends – *Answer: Herod and prison guards*

C. Drama: What is the context of the text?

Biblical Narrative Rules – Identify the plot and plot resolution:

Plot – Describe the story's tension. How are God's friends attempting to build God's kingdom and in what ways are Satan's friends resisting them? *Answer: Peter is preaching the gospel. Herod arrests Peter in an attempt to silence the gospel.*

Plot Resolution – How does God, the hero, save the day? *Answer: God supernaturally delivers Peter from jail through the assistance of an angel*

D. Discovery: What is the intended message by the author to the original audience? *Answer: God delivers his people both in the natural and spiritual world. God answers prayer!*

2. _____, pray and determine what is God communicating to us now?

What does this narrative reveal about God's character? Satan's character? What are themes and life lessons that are communicated through the text? Is there a promise God is trying to fulfill in your life that your lack of faith is blocking? Describe it. Based on what you learned from the characters, how can you be more like God's friends and less like Satan's friends?

Answer: I need to pray for God to do the impossible in my life

3. _____ and do something. Pray and decide what God wants to do in and through you in the future?

Identify the steps of faith you need to take in order to facilitate God's promises. What are you going to do to apply your faith to be more of who God wants you to be? Is there sin to repent of? Is there someone you need to forgive, serve or speak to?

Answer: I must surrender my impossible problems to God in prayer

Daily tweet: What did God teach you? Encourage others in that.

BIBLICAL NARRATIVE READING RULES

{Biblical Narratives are stories about real people in real time involved in real drama}

Identify:

God friends and Satan's friends

The Plot (How are God's friends attempting to build God's kingdom and in what way are Satan's friends resisting them?)

Plot Resolution (How does God, the hero, save the day?)



“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood” 1 Peter 2:9-10



Read, pray and discover what God communicated to the people at the time of the writing. Read and research background information that you might find in the text itself.

When you read, identify:

Author – Who is the person speaking? This can be the person who wrote the biblical text or the person speaking in the Bible story.

Audience – What are the facts surrounding the target audience of the scripture?

Key People – To whom is the Biblical text written? What is the message or theme of the person speaking?

Time/Place – What is the location of the target audience? When is the activity in scripture taking place?

Drama – What is the context that caused the author/speaker communicating to the audience?

Discovery Questions

What does the Bible text reveal about God’s character? How is the author/speaker trying to encourage his audience to be more like God? What are themes and life lessons that are communicated through the text?



Reflect, pray and determine what is God communicating to us in the present?

What ‘character trait’ do I need to adopt? Why? What sinful character trait do you need to avoid? Why? What change in behavior is necessary in my life?

Take time to write a 6-8 sentence summary of what you learn and how God wants you to change because of it.



Respond by praying and deciding what God wants to do in and through you in the future?

Based on your reflections on what you determine God is communicating in the Bible text, decide what you need to do to apply His truths in your life. What am I going to do to use this character trait to improve my relationship with God? What am I going to do to apply the Biblical character trait to make me more like Jesus? What am I going to do to improve others with that character trait? Is there sin to repent of? Is there someone you need to forgive, serve or speak to?

Further applications: Send an encouragement, exhortation or appeal to people in your acquaintance. Write out what you are learning and send it out to as many people as you can as an encouragement to their souls. Use social media to spread the Word of God (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Blog, email, etc.).

Further study, visit www.biblestudytools.net

Using the above guidelines, below is a daily Bible text for you to READ, REFLECT and RESPOND.

- MON** – Exodus 34: Warriors (*Biblical Narratives*)
- FRI** – John 10: Twists & Turns (*Kingdom Of God/Parables*)
- TUE** – Deut. 28: Loyalty (*Old Testament Law*)
- SAT** – Galatians 6: Letters (*Epistles*)
- WED** – Psalm 73: Soul Food (*Poetic Language*)
- SUN** – Daniel 9: Visions (*Apocalyptic Literature*)
- THU** – Joel 2: Law Enforcement (*Prophetic Literature*)

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