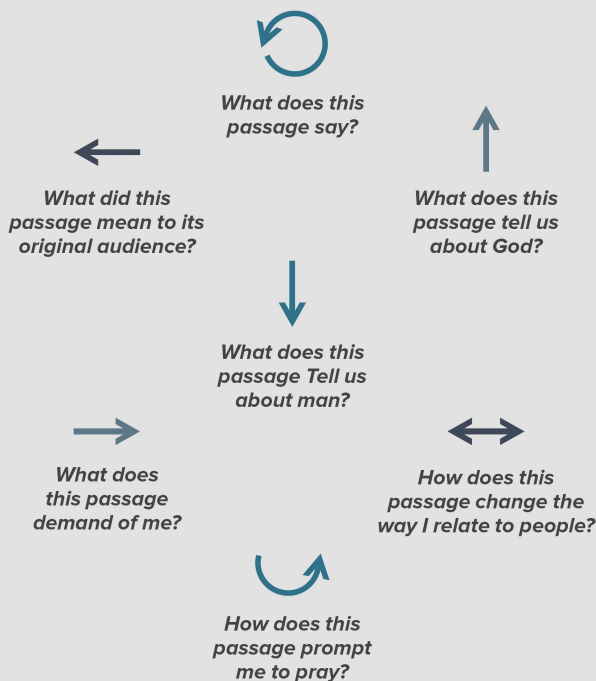


DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One 1 JOHN 4:12

No one can see God's face—that is, the full and clear revelation of His glory—and live. Jesus, while He was on earth, lived as the perfect picture of the character of God. However, He is no longer among us, so it has been left up to the church to live as a picture of God. The way we do this is to live in love toward one another. When we are kind and generous, when we forgive others for their offenses, when we are honest and honorable, and when we work diligently to do what is right, the character of God is shown in the ways we live. Scripture teaches that the greatest commandments are to love God and others. When we do this, God is revealed through us, and He will draw others to Himself.

➤ Why is it that “no one has ever seen God”?

➤ How is the church a picture of God in the world?

Day Two

1 JOHN 4:13-15



In John 15:1-16, Jesus taught about the importance of “remaining” in Him. In fact, He used the word “remain” eleven times in those few verses. Remaining in Him is absolutely necessary for our having eternal life. We know we are remaining in Him by continually living in the Spirit. The Spirit opens our eyes to the truth of God’s Word and empowers us to live it out day by day. For those of us who have believed that Jesus is Lord, we confess it not only with our mouths, but also with our lives.

➤ What does it mean to “remain” in Jesus?

➤ Why is our confession a necessary part of salvation?

Day Three

1 JOHN 4:16-17

That “God is love” is one of the most familiar ideas in the Bible. It refers to God’s being relational—existing for eternity within the context of the Trinity, with each person continually and perfectly relating to the others in perfect community and love. Further, God has created us to live in a loving relationship with Him. Even though we rebelled and separated ourselves relationally from God, He chose to restore that relationship through Jesus. The clearest expression of God’s love for us is the sacrifice of Jesus. If we are ever tempted to question if God loves us, we need only to remember that He sent His only Son to pay the price for our sins. God is the source of all love, and when we receive His love, living lovingly toward Him in return, we can know that we have been spared the judgment we deserve.

➤ In your own words, what does it mean that God is love?

➤ How does love give us confidence concerning the judgment?

Day Four

1 JOHN 4:18

There are many things that cause us fear. Here, John teaches us that all fear is related to punishment or judgment. When we are afraid, it's not usually because something bad has happened, but because we believe that something that will bring us pain will happen in the future. If you were to go skydiving, you'd likely experience fear due to the possibility of the parachute not opening, which would cause you to crash into the ground and break all of your bones. Even if you landed smoothly and safely, you'd still have experienced more than your fair share of fear. Why? Due to the fear of what *might* happen in the future. Ultimately, all fear is related to the future judgment which awaits sinners. Because we've all sinned, we all have legitimate reason to be fearful of the coming judgment.

- **What are you worried or fearful about concerning your future?**
- **Do the things that cause you fear always happen the way you imagine? What lessons have you learned in the past?**

Day Five

1 JOHN 4:18



Whereas those who have sinned (that's all of us) have reason to fear, the love of God drives that fear away. For the one who lives for himself, sinfully and with no regard for God's commands, he has reason to fear the coming judgment. However, those who have received God's love and live in ways that demonstrate their love for God have no reason to worry at all. This doesn't mean we have to be perfect—we never will. It means that the overwhelming patterns of our lives are driven by a genuine love for God. If we don't fear the judgment, then the other things we might be tempted to fear on earth will seem like relatively small issues. God loves us and He will take care of those who love Him—we have no reason to fear.

- **How does your life show that you love God?**
- **Why does this mean that you have no reason to live fearfully?**