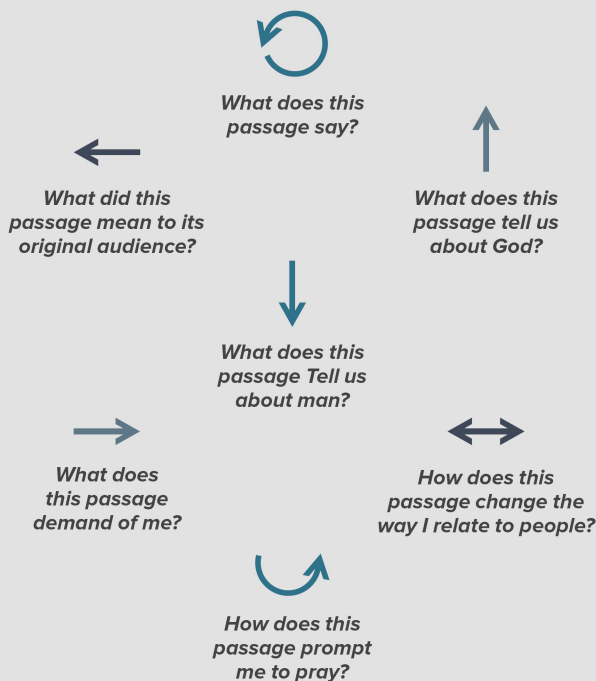


DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One 1 PETER 2:1

Peter wrote this letter to believers who were scattered throughout the ancient world because of persecution. Peter himself had suffered in terrible ways, so he wrote from experience about how to honor God in suffering. Peter knew they would be tempted to respond in these ways when they suffered. Malice refers to the desire to do harm to someone (i.e., the persecutors, in this case). They may have been tempted to lie in order to get out of trouble. Or they may have been tempted to do evil so they could be spared suffering. But if they had done these, they would have brought dishonor to the name of Christ. It is important that we rid ourselves of sin if we want to grow in Christ. Further, God receives glory when His people live for Him, especially during difficult times. Jesus obeyed the Father, no matter the cost, and we are called to live the same way.

- **When have you been tempted to disobey God because obeying could have led to suffering?**
- **Why is ridding ourselves of sin so important?**

Day Two

1 PETER 2:2-3



Newborn babies crave milk. When they're hungry, they'll certainly let you know by crying, even wailing if their desires aren't met immediately. Just like a newborn must have milk to grow, Christians must feed on the Word of God to grow in maturity. For Christians who have tasted that the Lord is good, we desire Him in much the same way. Because He satisfies in ways nothing else can, Christians have a deep desire to be fed on the Bread of life, and to go without Him for any amount of time leaves us starving to eat.

➤ **Why is feeding on the Word so important for our spiritual maturity?**

➤ **How would you describe your hunger for Jesus?**

Day Three

1 PETER 2:4-5

Jesus died and rose from the dead, He is alive today, and He is a living stone upon which God is building His temple, the church. The Jewish religious leaders rejected Jesus, but God intended all along that Jesus would be the foundation of the spiritual temple. Just as Jesus is a living stone, all believers are as well, and we are being made into a spiritual house where the Spirit of God dwells. Sometimes we may think of our church buildings as God's house, but the truth is that a building of bricks and mortar has no significant spiritual value. Instead, the true house of God is the people. God is the master builder, and He places each stone, securing us in our place as part of the house of God.

➤ **Why did the Jews reject Jesus?**

➤ **What is the significance of your being a stone in the house of God?**

Day Four

1 PETER 2:6-8

When building a house, a cornerstone was carefully selected as the stone to which the rest of the foundation would be oriented. It had to be large, solid, and set perfectly in place. If the cornerstone wasn't right, then the rest of the house wouldn't be either. It wouldn't be a safe place to live. The Jewish religious leaders were seen as the builders of the nation, yet these builders rejected Jesus as the foundation for the lives of God's people. They missed that Jesus was not only the best foundation, but the only foundation fit for building our lives. The Jews were offended by the things Jesus taught—stumbling over God's truth—because they refused to believe. For those who do believe, however, we will live for eternity because our foundation, Jesus Christ, is secure.

- **Why do people stumble over Jesus' teachings?**
- **Why does the Bible speak of Jesus as a secure foundation?**

Day Five

1 PETER 2:9



Whereas the Jewish religious leaders who rejected Jesus were themselves rejected by God, those who trust God are chosen by Him for a specific purpose. The purpose of our lives is to praise God. We were once lost and in darkness, but because the Holy Spirit opened our eyes to see the light of God, we have been saved and are now God's people. To be a priesthood means we are given access to God, invited to come to Him with our prayers and worship. To be holy means to be set apart, and God has set us apart for the special purpose of knowing and honoring Him. Christians are blessed among all the people of the earth.

- **How does your life demonstrate that you live in the light and not in darkness?**
- **How would you describe the privilege of being a part of God's priesthood?**