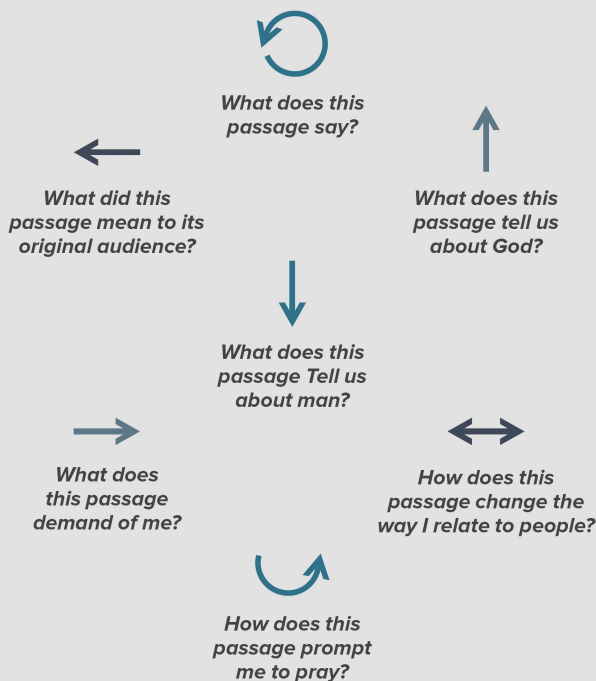


DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One 1 JOHN 1:5

First John is a letter written to Christians who were being influenced by false teachers. These teachers claimed things about Jesus that weren't true. John taught in this verse that these false teachers' messages came from the minds of unenlightened men, but the gospel message John proclaimed came from Jesus Himself. John had been with Jesus, and He'd seen and heard firsthand the truth Jesus proclaimed, which John then passed on to the church. His message was that "God is the light, and there is absolutely no darkness in Him." Light refers to that which is good and right, whereas darkness refers to sin and error. These false teachers may have claimed to have been enlightened, but they were deceived and sought to deceive others. Only God is absolutely free of darkness, pure and holy, and His light has shone into the world through Jesus.

➤ When have you heard people say incorrect things about Jesus?

➤ How are we able to discern light from darkness?

Day Two

1 JOHN 1:6



The false teachers may have said they knew Jesus, but their words and actions betrayed them. A relationship with Jesus is defined by our living as He did and growing day by day in Christlikeness. Followers of Christ will love others, live sacrificially, speak kindly, and be characterized by knowing and sharing the truth. There are many people in our culture today who claim to have a relationship with Jesus, yet they don't live in the light. Their lives aren't characterized by speaking truth and doing good. People may claim to know and love Jesus, but if our lives don't align with this claim, we must carefully examine if this is really true.

- **Why are people who may not live like Jesus so confident in their faith?**
- **What characterizes the life of someone who has "fellowship with him"?**

Day Three

1 JOHN 1:7

To walk in this verse involves actively taking step after step, practicing sin as a pattern. We will all sin at times, because as long as we are in this world, we will struggle against the flesh which inclines us toward sin. On the other hand, to be a part of God's family is to be overwhelmingly characterized by doing good—walking step by step, day by day in the light. It's not just about being a good person, not doing bad things. It's about loving Jesus with all that we are, making the intentional choice every day to live as He lived. Jesus lived for the glory of the Father, and this was demonstrated through His life of prayer, through His knowledge of the Scriptures, through His proclaiming the truth to all who would listen, and ultimately, through His life of sacrifice. We have fellowship with God's people and with God Himself when we choose to walk in the light in the same ways that Jesus lived out what was true and good.

- **How does your life show a pattern of walking in the light as Jesus did?**
- **How do you enjoy fellowship with other followers of Christ?**

Day Four

1 JOHN 1:8

Pride often tempts us to think of ourselves as good people, but Jesus said that “no one is good except God alone” (Luke 18:19). Some have gone so far as to claim they’ve never sinned, as was the case with these false teachers. This belief rules out their having fellowship with Jesus. All have sinned (Rom. 3:10), and forgiveness, by which we are reconciled to God, is available only when we confess our sins. For us today, we need to be very careful that we don’t let pride creep into our lives that would lead us to believe we are better than we actually are. The truth is that we are broken. We desperately need the grace of God to save us and to empower us to live for Him.

➤ **How are you tempted to be prideful?**

➤ **How do you know that you need the grace of God in your life?**

Day Five

1 JOHN 1:9



Confess means specifically “with-speak”—to speak in a way that is in line with the things God says or to agree with God about what is true. God’s standard for our lives is perfect righteousness, and He says that we’ve fallen desperately short. When we look at our lives, recognizing specific ways we’ve disobeyed, and we confess those to God, He responds by extending forgiveness to us. The false teachers were characterized by prideful claims of sinlessness. The true child of God, however, is characterized by a life of humility and a pattern of continually confessing the ways we fall short of God’s standard that we would remain in close fellowship with Him.

➤ **Why is humility so important for the follower of Christ?**

➤ **What habits do you have in place to confess your sins to God?**