

January

Your word is a lamp for my feet
and a light on my path.

PSALM 119:105 CSB

JANUARY 1

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1-3

God Speaks

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

GENESIS 1:1-3 ESV

After God finished creating this marvelous world, Scripture says that he looked it over and declared it to be very good. His Creation reflected his own glory and completeness. It was not lacking anything. It was pure, strong, and built with integrity. By his Word he created light, separated water and land, and filled the planet with living things. All he had to do was speak.

God's Word is essential to life. His good plans demand a posture of listening for his voice. His Spirit moves over each of us and is ready to guide us. His Word is ready to transform our hearts, shape our thoughts, and give purpose to all our endeavors. As a new year begins, let's incline our ears to hear what God is speaking over our goals and routines.

Dear Lord, you simply spoke and everything came into existence. Please speak into my life today. Create in me actions that will bring glory to your holy name.

JANUARY 2

Scripture Reading: Genesis 4-6

Standing Strong

This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.

GENESIS 6:9 NIV

God's initial declaration of goodness shifted when he saw the wickedness that had flourished. He observed how people had strayed from him, and he was grieved. The scene unfolding within his creation deeply troubled his heart.

Noah was different from the rest of the men on earth. He did not drown in the overwhelming flood of his culture. Instead, Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. He was like a beacon of light cutting through the fog. When God looked at Noah, he saw a man who stood in contrast to the evil actions of those around him. God saw a man whose heart aligned with righteousness and faithfulness. God saw a man who could be part of his daring plan of salvation for a broken world.

God, give me the courage today to stand strong as one who is faithful to you. May my thoughts and actions be righteous and pleasing to you.

JANUARY 3

Scripture Reading: Genesis 7-9

Trusting God

Two by two they came into the boat, representing every living thing that breathes. A male and female of each kind entered, just as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD closed the door behind them.

GENESIS 7:15-16 NLT

When God shut the door behind them, do you think Noah may have had a moment of panic? Everything he had known was outside that door, yet his new calling awaited inside, shut off from what was familiar. Scripture tells us that despite the difficulties of the tasks ahead, Noah was faithful. He followed God's instructions exactly as he gave them. Noah's devotion to God changed the trajectory of not just his life but the entirety of human existence.

Like Noah, we can be unwavering in our commitment to God's plans. We can stick to the journey even if we don't fully foresee the outcome. We can remain focused on our mission even if doors are shut behind us. Staying true to God's call might seem foolish to others, but it is a worthy pursuit. Our faithfulness will surely impact more than just ourselves.

Heavenly Father, empower me to act with integrity in everything I do. Give me grace to be faithful to the call you have placed on my life.

JANUARY 4

Scripture Reading: Genesis 10-12

Blessed through You

“I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

GENESIS 12:3 NIV

God doesn't give up on sinful, broken people. When Adam and Eve brought the consequence of sin to the world, God brought a sacrifice to cover their naked shame. When people embraced evil, God provided a plan to preserve life on earth through the righteousness of Noah. When society's leaders blasphemed God and built a tower exulting their own glory, God scattered them and launched a plan to bless all of humanity through the faithfulness of one man.

Every person God uses to execute his plans is part of a much bigger picture. Yes, God blessed Abram's faithfulness with success and leadership, but Abram's impact went beyond his lifetime. He created a legacy of obedience and righteousness. God blessed Abram's day-to-day life, and he equipped him with a faith that would become a blessing to all generations.

Lord, shape the work of my hands and the focus of my heart. Help me see the long-term impact of my decisions.

JANUARY 5

Scripture Reading: Genesis 13-15

Believing God

“Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.... So shall your offspring be.” Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

GENESIS 15:5-6 NIV

God declared in a vision that Abram would have descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky. However, there was a major obstacle to that promise being realized. Abram and his wife were unable to have children. The Lord’s promise seemed far-fetched and astonishing. Despite the impossible circumstances, Abram trusted what God said. He decided that God’s promises were more powerful than his problems.

God’s promises rarely come with a step-by-step manual. He doesn’t typically give us a detailed explanation of how his plans will come to pass. His promises require faith. They often require us to move one step at a time, believing that he will weave the details together perfectly. It’s not our responsibility to make sure everything fits together; it’s our responsibility to keep our eyes on him and move forward bit by bit.

God, guide my steps and strengthen my faith. Help me follow you even when it doesn't make sense to me.