



Treasuring God's Word



January 1-8, 2012

► **Sunday, January 1, 2012**

Happy New Year!

God's blessings and love to you in 2012!

► **Monday, January 2, 2012**

Read: Genesis 3:1-7

This year *Treasuring God's Word* is going to focus on some of the great stories from the Bible. This week we'll cover the fall of man and Cain and Abel. Did you catch that Eve did not quote God's instructions correctly? Go back and read Genesis 2:16-17. **Prayer: Help me, Lord, to close my ears to those voices that would lead me astray. Amen.**

► **Tuesday, January 3, 2012**

Read: Genesis 3:8-16

We're not so much different than the first man and woman, right? When confronted by the Lord, Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent. In other words, it's not my fault that I sinned! Don't we use the same tactic? **Prayer: Gracious Father, help me to accept responsibility for the things I do, ready to seek Your forgiveness when I go astray. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

► **Wednesday, January 4, 2012**

Read: Genesis 3:17-24

The curse of sin is so thorough that God's creation also suffers from Adam and Eve's disobedience. Creation also longs for Jesus to return and make things right again. See **Romans 8:19-21**. **Prayer: Lord, thank You for my work and for the opportunity to use my talents to Your glory and praise. Amen.**

► **Thursday, January 5, 2012**

Read: Genesis 4:1-7

What is it that Abel had but was missing from Cain? In a word – **faith**. Abel gave out of faith; He gave God the very best he had to offer. Cain gave an offering as well. But his gift was absent of faith. Read **Hebrews 11:6** to learn why faith is such an important ingredient for our lives. **Prayer: Holy Spirit, work through the Scriptures to strengthen my faith and hope in the Lord. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

► **Friday, January 6, 2012**

Read: Genesis 4:8-16

Here we find the very first death recorded in Scripture and it is by murder. Note that the curse that God brought down on Cain was not an irreversible sentence of damnation. Instead, Cain would no longer work the cultivated portion of the land but that life would become harder than he could possibly imagine. Still, he went with God's protection. **Prayer: Lord, please protect those who serve and protect us – those in the armed forces and in law enforcement. Amen.**

► **Saturday, January 7, 2012**

Read: Genesis 4:17-26

Something wonderful has happened in the midst of all the death, sin and rebellion we've read in chapter 4. Read **verse 26** again. Now turn to **Luke 3:38**. Here we see that part of the family tree from which Jesus descended. Here God is keeping His promise to send a Savior. **Prayer: Dear Father, I thank You for sending Jesus to be my Savior from sin and death. In His name, I pray. Amen.**

► **Sunday, January 8, 2012**

In preparation for worship

Read: Psalm 56



Treasuring God's Word



January 9-15, 2012

► **Monday, January 9, 2012**

Read: Luke 4:1-13

We continue reading great stories from the Bible. This week we follow Jesus in Luke, chapter 4. The testing by the devil is the final episode in Jesus' preparation for ministry. Watch how Jesus stands on the Word of God in repelling the devil; go back to Genesis 3 to see how Adam and Eve did not. *Prayer: O Lord, in 2012, let the Bible be my favorite book. Amen.*

► **Tuesday, January 10, 2012**

Read: Luke 4:14-22

The Jesus who returns home is not the one who left Galilee. Jesus has been baptized with full participation from the Trinity; the Lord has overcome Satan's temptations; His teachings are filling people with intrigue. It is no accident that the Lord reads **Isaiah 61:1-2** – the servant of the Lord *has come*. *Prayer: Father God, I give thanks that Your kingdom has come to me, through faith, in Jesus. Amen.*

► **Wednesday, January 11, 2012**

Read: Luke 4:23-30

A grand homecoming turns lethal! In spite of what they've heard, Nazareth rejects Jesus' good news that He is the Messiah and that God's Kingdom will come to Gentile as well as Jew. Even though many hearts are filled with malice, Jesus escapes death – it is not yet His time to offer Himself as a sacrifice for sin. *Prayer: Lord, I open my heart to you, please make it Your throne to rule over me as the one true God. Amen.*

► **Thursday, January 12, 2012**

Read: Luke 4:31-37

The evil spirit recognizes something about Jesus that the people of Nazareth didn't get; the Lord is the "Holy One of God!" He knows of Jesus' Sonship and of the complete authority the Lord has over evil. *Prayer: Dear Jesus, deliver me from evil until the day You take me to my heavenly home. Amen.*

► **Friday, January 13, 2012**

Read: Luke 4:38-41

Notice the contrast between Nazareth and Capernaum – no miracles to many miracles...hatred and violence to joy and excitement. See God's power over sin and its fruit! *Prayer: I praise You, O Lord, for your answers to my prayers. Today I pray for myself and others...*

► **Saturday, January 14, 2012**

Read: Luke 4:42-44

Here is a scene we see repeated often in Jesus' earthly ministry – the people do not yet understand the full scope of Jesus' ministry. Note also how Jesus silenced the evil spirits; He did not want them undermining the true purpose of His coming into the world. *Prayer: Help me, O Lord, to begin each day listening to You speak in Your Holy Word. Amen.*

► **Sunday, January 15, 2012**

In preparation for worship

Read: Psalm 150



Treasuring God's Word



January 9-15, 2012

► **Monday, January 16, 2012**

Read: Genesis 11:1-9

More great stories from the Bible – this week Genesis 11, 12 and 13. Most Bibles label this reading, “The Tower of Babel.” A better description might be “A Relapse into Unbelief.” The people’s expressed purpose is found in verse 4, which is typical of our sinful human nature’s grab for the glory that belongs to God. **Prayer:** *O Lord, let me seek only that which is Your will and plan for my life. Amen.*

► **Tuesday, January 17, 2012**

Read: Genesis 12:1-3

A short reading today but an important one. Go back and underline all the instances of “I will.” Every good thing in Abram’s life will take place because of the blessing of the Lord. **Prayer:** *Gracious God, like Abram, my every blessing has come from Your generous and righteous hand. I praise You for Your love and care. In Jesus, I pray. Amen.*

► **Wednesday, January 18, 2012**

Read: Genesis 12:4-9

Abram responds to God’s promises with faith and trust – “Abram left, as the Lord had told him.” That faith empowered Abram to take God at His Word and go. Notice also that in a land of unbelievers, Abram builds an altar to worship the Lord. **Prayer:** *Help me, O Lord, to proclaim Your help and glory today and every day. Amen.*

► **Thursday, January 19, 2012**

Read: Genesis 12:10-20

This is not one of Abram’s better moments. Rather than turning to the Lord for help, Abram relies on his own clever ways – and nearly loses his wife in the process! And don’t forget- Sarai was to also play an important role in God’s plan of redemption for sinful people. Sarai could not be lost! **Prayer:** *Righteous God, I stumble in doubt and unbelief, just like Abram. Forgive me and help me to trust You always. In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

► **Friday, January 20, 2012**

Read: Genesis 13:1-9

God had really blessed Abram – so much that he and Lot could not comfortably share the same space. Notice, this time, that Abram really puts his faith in the Lord’s provision – he gives Lot first choice of the land he will inhabit. **Prayer:** *Lord, sometimes I have trouble praying, “Your will be done.” Strengthen my faith and confidence so that I always trust that You will generously meet all my needs. Amen.*

► **Saturday, January 21, 2012**

Read: Genesis 13:10-18

Review verses 14-17 again. Abram would miss Lot very much. But the Lord reaffirms the promises made earlier to Abram and, in fact, betters it. Abram responds with worship and praise for the one true God. **Prayer:** *Prepare my heart, dear Lord, that I might offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise to You in worship tomorrow. Amen.*

► **Sunday, January 22, 2012**

In preparation for worship

Read Psalm 61



Treasuring God's Word



January 23-29, 2012

► **Monday, January 23, 2012**

Read: Matthew 8:5-13

Our great stories from the Bible focus this week on Jesus and His compassion for those who needed His help. What is so striking in this reading is Jesus' response to the Centurion's request – and this for a Gentile! *Prayer: Lord, let this story reassure me that You hear and respond with compassion when I pray to You. Amen.*

► **Tuesday, January 24, 2012**

Read: Matthew 8:23-27

Omnipotence on display! Jesus is all powerful and He can control the very winds and waves He created. *Prayer: Lord Jesus, nothing is impossible for you. You saved the disciples from drowning; You rescued and saved me and brought me into Your kingdom of grace. I praise You! Amen.*

► **Wednesday, January 25, 2012**

Read: Matthew 8:28-34

It only makes sense – unholy demons begging to be sent off into unclean animals. By the way, Jesus is in Gentile territory so it's not surprising that the townspeople pleaded with Jesus to leave them. Their cold, unbelieving hearts wanted nothing to do with the mighty Lord. *Prayer: Protect me, Lord, from the temptations of the evil one and keep me close to You. Amen.*

► **Thursday, January 26, 2012**

Read: Matthew 9:1-8

Here's the **POWER** of Jesus' **WORDS**. With a word He heals the paralytic; with a word He forgives the man his sins. *Prayer: Thank You, Jesus, for speaking forgiveness for all my sins each Sunday through Your Word of Absolution. Amen.*

► **Friday, January 27, 2012**

Read: Matthew 9:9-13

Such a scandal – no self-respecting religious leader would have anything to do with such sinners. But such people were exactly who Jesus came to save. What a merciful Savior we have! *Prayer: O Lord, thank You for giving me what I don't deserve – forgiveness and grace! Amen.*

► **Saturday, January 28, 2012**

Read: Matthew 9:18-26

A wonderful story! The little girl's resurrection foreshadows our own resurrection from the dead in Christ on the Last Day. *Prayer: Help me also, dear Lord, spread the news about Your saving love and compassion. Amen.*

► **Sunday, January 29, 2012**

In preparation for worship

Read Psalm 62