

## Week 1 Day 1

**Readings:** Matthew 1:1-17; Acts 1:1-14; Psalm 1; Proverbs 1:1-7; Genesis 1-2.

**Focus Verse:** "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction." (Proverbs 1:7)

**Key Concept:** "In The Beginning God. . ." (Genesis 1-2). The first two chapters of Genesis introduce us to God. He is Creator and Ruler of everything in the universe. If the revelation of the Bible stopped here, we would owe Him our devotion and respect simply because He is so clearly superior to us. We should be thankful, however, that the Bible does not end here. The pages that follow tell us so much about the love and holiness of God, and about His concern for our well-being.

**Action:** Begin today with a year-long plan to read and meditate on the word of God each day. As you consider the messages of different portions of the Bible each day, focus on the blessings we enjoy, and on the responsibilities attached to those blessings. Determine now to put God first every day.

## Week 1 Day 2

**Readings:** Matthew 1:18-25; Acts 1:15-26; Psalm 2; Proverbs 1:8-14; Genesis 3-4.

**Focus Verse:** "My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent." (Proverbs 1:10)

**Key Concept:** Sin and the Saviour. Genesis 3 introduces sin and its ugly consequences of suffering. But this chapter also introduces, in veiled terms, the Saviour. Jehovah points to the coming of One who would bruise the Tempter's head (v. 15). As we mourn the reality of sin, we can also rejoice that God chose to offer us the remedy in Jesus!

**Action:** God doesn't accept excuses. The only way to truly have sins excused is to admit them and seek God's forgiveness. Remember that as you pray today.

## Week 1 Day 3

**Readings:** Matthew 2:1-12; Acts 2:1-13; Psalm 3; Proverbs 1:15-19; Genesis 5-6.

**Focus Verse:** "I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me." (Psalm 3:5)

**Key Concept:** Wise Men Still Seek Jesus. Matthew 2 tells of the men who travelled from the East to see Jesus. Their search involved many things, but they could not find Jesus until they learned from the Scriptures where to look. Many people today are groping for answers found only in the Scriptures.

**Action:** Are you cultivating daily habits of seeking the Lord? Now take another step--help others find Him by directing them to the revelation of His will.

## Week 1 Day 4

**Readings:** Matthew 2:13-23; Acts 2:14-28; Psalm 4; Proverbs 1:20-27; Genesis 7-8.

**Focus Verse:** "Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Selah." (Psalm 4:4)

**Key Concept:** Jesus Was "Delivered" and "Taken" (Acts 2:23). He was delivered by His own Father--given as the great sacrifice our sins required. But He was also taken--willingly and recklessly murdered by the very people He came to save. We cannot afford to distance ourselves from the crime at Calvary. I killed Jesus. After all that, **He still loves me!**

**Action:** Meditate on the high price of your own sin. You can't repay the debt, but you can give all that you have in gratitude for the gift of salvation. Today, live for Jesus.

## Week 1 Day 5

**Readings:** Matthew 3:1-12; Acts 2:29-39; Psalm 5; Proverbs 1:28-33; Genesis 9-10.

**Focus Verse:** "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." (Acts 2:36)

**Key Concept:** The Lordship of Christ (Acts 2:36). The role of Jesus as Saviour is frequently, and properly, emphasized. But there is grave danger if we overlook His role as Lord. The absolute authority of Jesus is stressed throughout the New Testament. All men are subject to the One who has been made Lord by the Father (cf. Matthew 28:18).

**Action:** Concentrate on full submission of your will to God's will. Are you under His control each step of the way?

## **Week 1 Day 6**

**Readings:** Matthew 3:13-17; Acts 2:40-47; Psalm 6; Proverbs 2:1-9; Genesis 11-12.

**Focus Verse:** "For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding." (Proverbs 2:6)

**Key Concept:** Threefold Promise to Abram (Genesis 12:1-3). As He told Abram of the blessing of land, nation and seed, God offered a glimpse of His eternal plan for our salvation. Long before we were born, God was making provision for our redemption.

**Action:** As you pray today, don't neglect to thank God for His love in saving you from sin. As you plunge into the affairs of the day, don't fail to share the good news with those around you.

## **Week 1 Day 7**

**Readings:** Matthew 4:1-11; Acts 3:1-10; Psalm 7; Proverbs 2:10-15; Genesis 13-14.

**Focus Verse:** "Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you." (Proverbs 2:11)

**Key Concept:** The Victory of Jesus Over Satan's Temptations (Matthew 4:1-11). There were many other times that Jesus was tempted, a few of which are recorded in other passages. This account tells of one time that Satan made a concentrated effort to defeat Jesus. Jesus faced the temptation as a man, just as we must face our trials. He repeatedly turned to Scripture for the ammunition to defeat the Tempter. Jesus won the battle. We can win our battles!

**Action:** Face the trials of this day with study of the Scriptures and prayer to the Lord of Armies for strength to prevail.