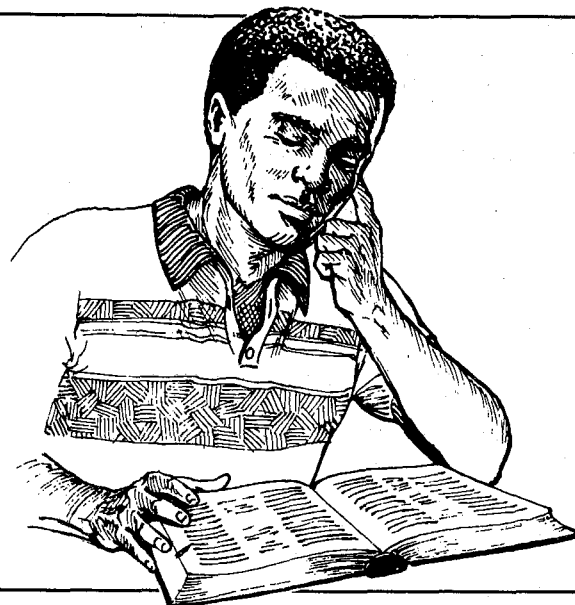


WEEK ONE

—Sunday—

You listen to our prayers because you love us and want to help. Gladly do I come to you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Listener. What a description of the very essence of your total being! To be sensitive to every move of every leaf — to be aware of every hurt of every man — to know the song of every bird. Oh, dear God, you listen! As compared with the best of men you so exceed them, there is only a contrast — men hard of hearing — your ears are always open. Thank you, praise you — oh, hear the deepest cry of my heart.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Listen to me — I could never talk too much or say too little. You hear without time, are concerned without interruption — and give total attention to all I say as long as I want to say it. This is one of the greatest qualities (if not the greatest) I have ever considered. Oh, bless and hallow your name! To hear me at the lowest and highest level — to hear me all the time — Oh, it is almost more than I can assimilate!

How do you personally relate to the listening of God, and God who is listener? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

You *know* — as no one else ever could — *my sin — my sins.* I hide them not for I cannot hide them. I am ashamed of them — I am confused and chagrined and overcome — and humbled and embarrassed — but I am not hidden. Do not only forgive but grant the inward healing that I sin no more. I want to consider carefully one specific sin each day and ask myself if such has stained my record. *Gossip:* a form of slander and lying. Oh, dear God, *guilty!* Forgive me! Oh, may I set your guard upon my lips .

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now.

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Far away in the depths of my spirit tonight
Rolls a melody deeper than psalm;
In celestial-like strains it unceasingly falls
O'er my soul like an infinite calm.
Peace! peace! wonderful peace,
Coming down from the Father above;
Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray,
In fathomless billows of love.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

⁴⁰His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

⁴¹The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. ⁴²Day after day, in the temple court and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the news that Jesus is the Christ.

—Acts 5:40-42, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How I want to express my wonder at what you had recorded in this text — “not to speak at all in the name of Jesus” — Oh, I want to remember how oppressive persecution could be right here in our own country. We are never worthy of *the Name* — but when we suffer for him we are so glad — because we are like him — who suffered for us — “Jesus is the Christ.” Dear God, give me an audience to whom I can tell the same glad tidings. “For his name’s sake” — what a lovely expression.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I do with joy and boldness enter into every word. Dear God, may I take the verbal flogging — or the

financial flogging — or the social flogging — with the same resigned joy, your joy — the unlettered fishermen did. May the day-by-day experiences of life show the same devotion. How beautiful to know there were many who wanted to hear. More than this, the experience of Jesus our Lord — my Savior — made it possible. Bleeding backs are an eloquent testimony!

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) That we can and must speak in the name of Jesus. (2) That there were (and are) men who count the reproach of our Lord a joy and privilege. Dear God, help me to be a part of that company. (3) That boldness in the face of opposition is a reality. (4) That houses were used as a place of testimony and teaching. (5) That both proclaiming and teaching are a part of the text — an example for us. (6) The same kind of people are here today to teach and be taught — to proclaim and to hear.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Let's gather around the questions and pray and think:

(1) Jealousy is the cause of so much arrest in God's work — in our own lives. Dear Lord, help me to *always* rejoice in the success and weep in the failures of another. (2) An angel — Dear God, to consider that there is an angel of the Lord even now ministering to me is a beautiful thought. (3) His message to them and his (their) message to me is "to speak all the words of *this* life." (4) The people — the silent "moral majority" were a real threat — they *are* today — praise the Lord! (5) What a wonderful accusation — of filling Jerusalem with the teaching of our Lord. Oh, that man might accept the blood guilt of the crucifixion — and the joy of forgiveness!

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I truly enjoy making my petitions an extension of your word: (1) Dear Lord, how would I react to a beating? (2) Dear Father, I want to be worthy to suffer and rejoice in it. (3) How can I better understand the fulness of joy found in your name? (4) Just where can I speak your name today? (5) I want to be your teacher — help me! (6) How can I communicate that what I preach is "good news"? (7) Is Jesus truly Lord in every part of my life — I want him to be!

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them..!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me in these verses: (1) "You will speak only what 'has your heart.' " (2) "I want you to speak for me every day." (3) "It is an honor to suffer for me."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

New Zealand — Points for prayer: (1) *The prevailing trend of New Zealand society is, as in many Western lands, secular materialism and a turning away from God.* Pray that the many believers may make a greater impact on society, its standards and its institutions. (2) *New Zealanders have an exciting record for missionary endeavor*, with missionaries serving all over the world. Pray that this vision be nurtured by pastors and leaders, and that the Church may continue to be outward looking. There are 9 Bible schools and seminaries in NZ; pray that missions may be fundamental to the instruction given. About 30% of all Bible school students are at the Bible College of New Zealand in Auckland. (3) *The Maori people* have begun to reassert themselves after years of cultural decline. Most are Christian in name, but the gospel needs to become more fully Maori yet true to Scripture. Traditional Protestant churches have been too superficial and there is little missionary vision. Syncretic sects (Ratana and Ringutu, etc.), and the Mormons have gained a large following. Too much initiative and leadership is still in non-Maori hands, and there is still no Maori Bible school.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

WEEK ONE

—Monday—

You can make all of life a melody. I take time just now to make this a reality.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Music-maker. How well does this describe one of the most meaningful qualities of your self. You have made music since in the cool of the day your lovely presence was heard and felt in the garden of perfection. You inspired the first man to prepare a musical instrument. The capacity to enjoy music is a part of your very likeness. Indeed, the enjoyment of all the aesthetic is a further expression of your image. Praise your magnificent name or nature.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Music-maker for my life. My life would have no music at all without you. With you and in you I hear and revel in a harmony only you can produce. Dear Lord, it isn't that I haven't had a thousand days when I had nothing to sing about — it is rather that you were (and are, and do) work all of those days into the total score of harmony to show me and Satan and all angels and men that you can produce a symphony of joy out of all our poor efforts and mistakes. Praise your name!

How do you personally relate to the music-making of God, and God who is music-maker? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

There is but little need to confess that I have sinned — we both know that — am I ever guilty of “lewd thoughts”? Why frame the sentence as a question? Only to hide my shame! Dear God, I do so need help here. I freely, openly, confess my sin — overcoming and stopping is what I need. I know — and claim the fact that habits are formed by repeating one act — one act here is to break the circumstances where lewd

thoughts begin — TV — movies — magazines, etc. To think on him who is love and light, even my blessed Lord — as found in the gospels. Forgive me and deepen my decisions.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining ev'ry day;
Still praying as I'm onward bound,
“Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.”
Lord, lift me up and let me stand,
By faith, on Heaven's tableland,
A higher plain than I have found;
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against those of the Aramaic-speaking community because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ²So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

⁵This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

⁶They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. ⁹Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called).

—Acts 6:1-9a, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How gladly I relate this text to its ultimate author. How could you take an interest in such a mundane, incidental, personal subject as the feeding of widows? It is because *my* priorities of interests are mixed. You are always concerned with human need. Your concern and compassion was caught and reflected in the lives of the men your Son chose — and yet these men had their priorities straight — prayer and “the ministry of the word” were the most important.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How good to see the cooperation (and organization) of the body of our Lord in Jerusalem. I wish I knew each of the seven men — each of those twelve men — one day I shall know them — one day I shall see them — and then there will be also millions who have followed in their path — all those who have since that day “given themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word.” The ministry of the word was practically tantamount to the increase — the spread of the word — what I would call evangelism!

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Praise you, thank you: (1) For the constant potential of the increasing of the members of your body. Disciplemaking can and does occur today! (2) That everyone can be, and should be, interested in human needs. (3) That there were and are men who are known to be “full of the Spirit and wisdom.” Stephen has his disciples — men who are “full of faith and the Holy Spirit.” (4) For Stephen — *God's full man*: (a) full of the Holy Spirit, (b) full of wisdom, (c) full of faith, (d) full of grace, (e) full of power. (5) For honest-hearted priests who were willing to risk all to accept our Lord.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Even God's full man faces opposition — why? Here are some possible reasons: (1) In a certain sense we are either full of the Holy Spirit or we are resisting him — there were these religious people who were afraid or jealous — or both — and resisted the Spirit. (2) We either evaluate the facts of life in the light of

heaven or by the flickering candle of this world — i.e., we either have heavenly wisdom or the wisdom of this world. These are set in opposition to each other. (3) We either believe God's word (against all odds) or we reject it and accept rational, humanistic “explanations.”

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How glad I am to relate all my requests to your word: (1) How easy it is to misunderstand. Help me to listen long enough to hear the whole story. (2) Should the church feed the poor among them? (3) Help me to identify today's “waiting on tables.” (4) How could I identify those who are “full of the Spirit”? (5) Give me the heaven-sent motivation to give myself to prayer. (6) What is obedience to the faith in becoming a Christian? (7) Why did Stephen perform miraculous signs among the people?

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me Lord! (1) “Let other people solve your problems.” (2) “Give yourself to prayer.” (3) “Give yourself to the ministry of the word.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Nicaragua — Points for prayer: (1) *Nicaragua is a land of agonizing contradictions.* The events surrounding and following the 1979 revolution are clouded by a miasma of propaganda. Christians inside and outside the country are divided and confused about their response. Pray for discernment. (2) *The turning to God since 1972 has been miraculous.* God has used many means: a) The devastating earthquakes that destroyed Managua brought evangelical churches and agencies together in a beautiful cooperation resulting in multiplied conversions. b) Aggressive evangelism through Evangelism in Depth, mass crusades (notably of Luis Palau and others), also church outreaches. c) The acute sufferings since 1977 due to war have made people seek after God. (3) *The attitude of Christians to politics is a burning issue.* Many are supportive of much good that the Sandinista government has done, others are opposed to their Marxist policies. Pray for unity among true believers and wisdom as to how to respond to efforts to politicize and even limit the activities of churches. Few Christians have faced up to the challenge posed by liberation theology.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Fairest Lord Jesus!
Ruler of all nature!
O Thou of God and man the Son!
Thee will I cherish,
Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown!

WEEK ONE

—Tuesday—

Dullness and monotony are from our enemy — variety and interest are from yourself — even our heavenly Father. I bow before you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Source of variety. How well does this describe our Heavenly Father — and how much variety you have created! All the complex beauty about us is but an extension of your own dear self. How I wonder and stand mute before such creative genius! And then to consider the variety of the men and women you have made — how many animals are there? How many butterflies? Birds? Fish?

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

If I am but willing and open I could see variety in a blade of grass! Consider how the light strikes it, how the dew condenses upon it, the several shades of green in it, how it compares with other blades of grass near it. I am overwhelmed at your essential Being, i.e., Spirit — spirit is the nature of man — how does man's spirit operate through his brain? How marvelously complex is man's eye, his ear, his hand. To think you are my Father is amazement beyond my expression.

How do you personally relate to the creative genius of God, and God who is the source of such creation? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear God, Creator, Father, only through my Savior can I approach you. How shall I confess my sins in a way I have not yet done? I have not yet committed a sin in the way I did yesterday, i.e., each sin needs to be confessed for itself — and forgiven for itself. I do fully, freely, confess, admit and accept responsibility for my sin, my latest sin.

Profanity is such a ridiculous sin. Why? Why? Pride and irritation. What should have taught me has been rejected — forgive me!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Jesus, Lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high;
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia. These men began to argue with Stephen, ¹⁰but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by which he spoke.

¹¹Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak words of blasphemy against Moses and against God."

¹²So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. ¹³They procured false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law.

¹⁴For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us."

¹⁵All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

7 Then the high priest asked him, "Are these charges true?"

²To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he

WEEK ONE

—Wednesday—

*How precious is this time with yourself
— your Son and your word. This is the
wellspring of faith!*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Source of faith. How totally true this is. You have invaded the planet earth and we owe our faith to what you have said and done in the Person of your Son. You have spoken through the writers of your book the Bible. Faith comes by hearing, reading and believing your word. What an abundant source of faith, an abundant person you are, abundance is an essential part of your character. Praise, thanksgiving, wonder, deep satisfaction, are all mine because of my trust in you through your word.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I know you are the ultimate source of faith, but your word is the immediate source. I want to thank you for my confidence in your providence. You are leading me in ways some people would call coincidences, but I see them as the expression of your concern in the little every day events of my life. You led me to a special book to confirm my faith. You led me to a medicine that will help my blood condition. Praise you for speaking in both your word and your daily care.

How do you personally relate to faith, and God who is the source of faith? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

That I have had hatred of one form or another in my heart toward men and women is true, but I want to be forgiven. I want real genuine love (described in I Cor. 13:3-8) in my mind, will and emotions. Please forgive me for any form of hatred. I have hated certain circumstances into which I put myself or others did — but ultimately it was hatred against you — and for this I am even more sorrowful. Oh, dear God, forgive me!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

O worship the King, all glorious above,
And gratefully sing His wonderful love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

“So he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. After the death of his father, God sent him to this land where you are now living. ⁵He gave him no inheritance here, not even a foot of ground. But God promised him that he and his descendants after him would possess the land, even though at that time Abraham had no child. ⁶God spoke to him in this way: ‘Your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. ⁷But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves,’ God said, ‘and afterward they will come out of that country and worship me in this place.’ ⁸Then he gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. And Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him eight days after his birth. Later Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs.

“Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him, ¹⁰and rescued him from all his troubles. He gave Joseph wisdom and enabled him to gain the good will of Pharaoh king of Egypt; so he made him ruler over Egypt and all his palace.” —Acts 7:4-10, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How good to read again of the people — the family with whom you worked in days gone by — but every

one of these people is now alive with you — for you are the God of the living — Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph! Praise your name. What a strong encouragement it is to me to read your promises and to see them fulfilled. But there must be someone like Stephen to tell and retell these beautiful words if they are going to mean anything to succeeding generations.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Dear God, some of your promises will be fulfilled in second and third generations — help me to be patient. The mistreatment, or even enslavement of your people does not mean you have forsaken them or forgotten them (even if it lasts twice as long as America is old). Circumcision always seemed such a strange act and interest on the part of yourself, but sex is so fundamental to man — such a deep part of man. God wants recognition and acceptance in every area of life. From one son a tribe can arise, a whole nation may come.

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) That every place I live can be a place where God lives. (2) That God is sending me and calling me whether I can see or hear or not. He is more interested in my needs than I could ever be! (3) That God's covenants are all kept — but they have two sides — I do purpose to keep mine. I know he will keep his. (4) I want to worship him in every place I go. I thank you that I can. (5) For family, who become so near and dear to us. (6) That you are a part of our family and work even through family quarrels. (7) Your plans will not and cannot be thwarted.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"But God was with him, and rescued him from all his troubles." If we would attribute every good thing that happened to us to yourself (as we indeed should) and every evil thing to the evil one (as we should) then we could say really often that you have rescued me from all my troubles. I and my brothers brought on all the troubles we are in. There are various ways of exalting man — indeed you have ways that seem the very opposite, but viewed from your perspective become a compliment not a complaint — man means it for evil but God means it for good!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

History is a good teacher — if we are willing to learn — I am: (1) Help me to never become so attached to this country that I could not leave it. (2) I want to ac-

cept the full impact of fulfilled prophecy. (3) I want to appreciate the Hebrew fathers, such as: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (4) Such a good example I find in Joseph — I want to be like him. (5) In all of my life God is working something for my good. (6) Dear Lord, rescue me from my trouble. (7) What an outstanding example of devotion I see in Joseph — I want to know more by way of application.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me through this text: (1) "I am serious about my covenants." (2) "My ways are not your ways, but I love you." (3) "Use whatever I give you to bring honor to me."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Niger — Points for prayer: (1) *In only six peoples are there missionaries laboring.* Only among the Gurma (Baptists) and Hausa (SIM) have churches emerged. Pray for pioneering work among these and also: a) *The Tuareg*, once rich, but impoverished by the Sahel famine and dependent on aid. The selfless ministry of missionaries from SIM, Baptist International Missions and Sahara Desert Mission opened the hearts of some, and there are two or three small groups of believers. SIM missionaries are translating the Scriptures. b) *The Djerma* still 25% animist, with only 50 believers. Evangelical Baptist missionaries have labored long, but no breakthrough has yet come among these resistant people. c) *Maga (Kanuri)* in the east among whom SIM has a good entry and where there is the beginning of a response. SIL (Wycliffe) is translating the Scriptures for them. There are now about 10 believers. (2) *Unreached and unoccupied peoples are numerous.* a) *The Songhay, Kurfey, Wogo* (30,000), *Kado*, who are Muslims living along the Niger River in the southwest. b) *The Fulani* — both the settled Sokoto and nomadic Fulani of the west, and the less Islamized nomadic Fulani across the whole country. There are some believers in surrounding countries, but only 10 known in Niger. Radio ELWA broadcasts in Fulani, and one SIM couple is committed to this people. c) *Non-Muslim minorities:* Kurfey (50,000), Maouri (120,000) speak Hausa and are similar to the Maguzawa of Nigeria. SIM has some contact with them. d) *The nomadic people of the Sahara* notably the Tubu in the northeast, and Zaghawa near Lake Chad and west of Agades.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wound,
And drives away his fear.

WEEK ONE

—Thursday—

You are revealed in your Son. Your Son is revealed through us. Use this time of worship to give reality to this truth.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Revealer. My dear Father, you do indeed reveal all that man has ever known from the world of eternity. How much you have given us — “all things that relate to this life and the life to come” (II Pet. 1:3). Bless and adore your wonderful name. You also give wisdom (the best use of knowledge) which is a form of revelation. You have also revealed the secrets of men in times past and even now you do the same.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Revealer to me. I am so glad to know someone who knows all things — to you I can come for any and all answers. You have given me a book in which I have the sum total of your revelation and yet you uncover new concepts to me of the application of your word and for this form of revelation (wisdom) I thank and praise you. You show me the hidden secrets of my heart and how much I need your forgiveness.

How do you personally relate to the revelations of God, and God who is revealer? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

How often have I been angry out of frustrated selfishness? Dear Lord, please forgive. Dear God, let my anger be directed toward the evil one. At times my anger comes from a lack of rest — for one reason or another I have not kept my priorities straight. Dear Lord, forgive and cleanse. How strong and helpful to have the total washing away of all guilt and sin. Wonderful!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind;
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper rev'rence, praise.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

¹¹“Then a famine struck all Egypt and Canaan, bringing great suffering, and our fathers could not find food. ¹²When Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our fathers on their first visit. ¹³On their second visit, Joseph told his brothers who he was, and Pharaoh learned about Joseph’s family. ¹⁴After this, Joseph sent for his father Jacob and his whole family, seventy-five in all. ¹⁵Then Jacob went down to Egypt, where he and our fathers died. ¹⁶Their bodies were brought back to Shechem and placed in the tomb that Abraham had bought from the sons of Hamor at Shechem for a certain sum of money. ¹⁷“As the time drew near for God to fulfill his promise to Abraham, the number of our people in Egypt greatly increased. ¹⁸Then another king, who knew nothing about Joseph, became ruler of Egypt. ¹⁹He dealt treacherously with our people and oppressed our forefathers by forcing them to throw out their newborn babies so that they would die.” —Acts 7:11-19, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

That a famine would strike anytime, anywhere, is itself a tragic fact, but when you are in it, i.e., able to work through it and actually use it for your own advantage, it is a source of wonder. The record of your thoughts, purposes and actions in the life of Joseph is typical of your interest in every man’s life, i.e., if every man would be as responsive as your servant Joseph. Dear God, I want to be that man! You have and will and are fulfilling your promises today! Praise

your faithfulness.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

A famine has often struck my emotional nature, but you always have grain somewhere and you will lead me to it if I am only willing. What seems a cause of need becomes an occasion for blessing. There will always be rulers "who know not what gain in faith previous rulers have made," but at the same time there is being born someone who is "no ordinary child" — he will deliver!

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Thank you: (1) For the wonderful way you are able to work through every circumstance of life for our good. (2) For the beautiful story of Joseph — such a good man — one who has helped me often. (3) That I am not the body — the bodies were carried over to Shechem, but the men had been with you. (4) Your cause can and does increase — just the law of averages takes care of some of it. (5) While someone dies — at the same time someone is born — both are an essential part of life. (6) Treacherous rulers are no threat to you, but are a trial to your people. (7) Courage and boldness are always possible.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Let us gather around your word and pray and think: The Grecian Jews were complaining about the Aramaic-speaking Jews. There is no disagreement quite so heated as that between brothers, but love can solve it — let the Grecian Jews take the lead in a solution. Prayer — and the ministry of the word — "to give myself" to prayer means much — myself, my total being. Dear God, forgive that I fail here — time and thought and energy. There are five men here about whom we know nothing, but this is typical of all your work — each is known to you and a record can be written in heaven for all of them.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Stephen is speaking to me — I want to hear him: (1) Help me to go to the right man for food — one like Joseph, even your Son. (2) Give me the humble forgiving spirit of Joseph. (3) Help me to remember the commandment to "honor your father and mother" has not been repealed. (4) May I remember that one day all that physically identifies me will return to the Lord. (5) May I also remember there will be millions to follow me who have never heard of my God. (6) Whatever I am going to do for you must be

done now. (7) Give me a sensitive heart that I might see something special in every child born.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

What are you saying especially to me? (1) "People are starving without the water of life and the bread from heaven." (2) "Forgive freely from the heart as you have been forgiven." (3) "There are evil men to whom human life means nothing."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Nigeria — Points for prayer: (1) *Praise God for the growth and dynamism of the Church in Nigeria.* There have been three great waves of growth: first in the last century on the coast through denominational missions; the second through predominantly interdenominational agencies in the Middle Belt; and since the '60s and '70s, among the more educated through a large number of indigenous denominations and independent fellowship groups. Much of the latter is Pentecostal/Charismatic in flavor, enthusiastically evangelistic and rejects deep-seated witchcraft practised by many who claim to be Christians. (2) *The political and economic crises of Nigeria* have brought frustration and despair to millions. Unless the hearts of men are changed, little improvement can be expected. Pray for a spiritual awakening in the country, and pray that Christians of exemplary life may become decisive in national life. Pray for a government that can unite the country, restore and maintain high ethical standards in all areas of administration, and deal impartially with both Muslims and Christians. (3) *Islam is seeking to gain full control of Nigeria.* The conversion of pagans by bribery or coercion and the limitation of Christian activities and outreach have increased in areas where there are Muslim rulers. In some areas of the north there has been intimidation of Christians and destruction of churches. Christians are both unsure how to react and unprepared for active, loving witness to Muslims.

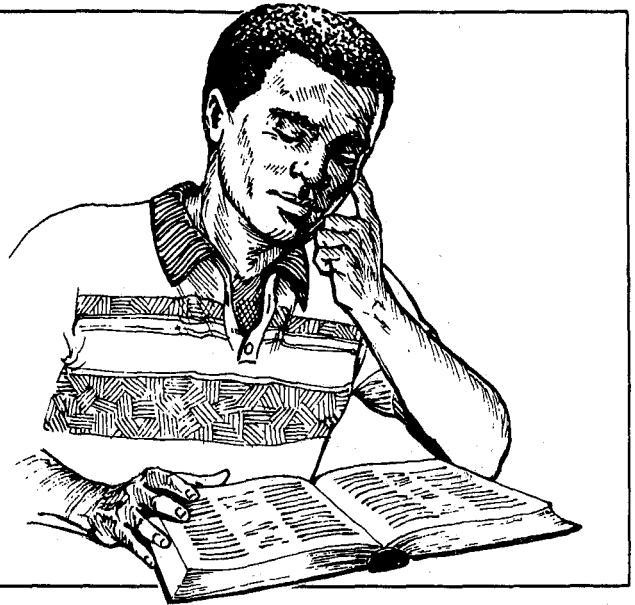
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

When I saw the cleansing fountain
Open wide for all my sin,
I obeyed the Spirit's wooing,
When He said, Wilt thou be clean?
I will praise Him, I will praise Him!
Praise the Lamb for sinners slain;
Give Him glory, all ye people,
For His blood can wash away each stain.

WEEK ONE

—Friday—

To take a personal constant interest in me is one amazing thought! But it is true! I hold up my heart to you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Personally interested. To believe you are personally interested in every living human being upon the surface of this planet is one awesome thought! Most especially when I consider the thousands upon hundreds of thousands I have seen in India, or Korea, or the Philippines — yet this I do believe and I'm glad I do! You know every thought and deed and at the same time the failures of each and all.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Personally interested in me. I represent all others, i.e., who are your children. I know you want *all* men to be your family, but I take great courage in this thought. I raise my prayer up as a true expression of wonder and praise. I do need so much your help in so many areas — indeed I want to give my whole self to you. That you think of me as an individual is such a strength.

How do you personally relate to the personal interest of God, and God who is personally interested? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

I have sinned and do sin — I do not want to continue in sin! Do I have “wrath” as a sin? Yes, yes, but I have noticed lately a calming condition — I praise you for this. I want to show love which suffers long, with kindness — not impatient wrath which strikes out at any hindrance. Most of all I want to be clean within! Praise your name I accept such from you!

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now.

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Fairest Lord Jesus!

Ruler of all nature!
O Thou of God and man the Son!
Thee will I cherish,
Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown!

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

²⁰“At that time Moses was born, and he was no ordinary child. For three months he was cared for in his father's house. ²¹When he was placed outside, Pharaoh's daughter took him and brought him up as her own son. ²²Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.

²³“When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his fellow Israelites. ²⁴He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian. ²⁵Moses thought that the people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not.” —Acts 7:20-25, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

You have set yourself among families — so very, very often you are involved with someone's son, father, mother, child or with many families. And always there is some really fine purpose behind your presence. Here we are in the house of Jocabed and her husband, but most of all with Moses. Indeed, “he was no ordinary child” born anywhere — everyone is someone special — thanks to your presence in the family.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

To see Moses “educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians — powerful in speech and action” — and yet devoted to you (or was he?) is a remarkable cir-

cumstance. He retained his racial identity, but trusted too much in himself. Dear God, may I see myself in this man Moses. I cannot do your work or carry out your will by human wisdom, speech or action, or by espousing a righteous cause. Without you and through yourself I can do nothing, utterly, totally, nothing.

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

How I thank you: (1) For the family unit of which you are the best part. (2) For men like Stephen who know your word and its meaning. (3) For brave and humble Jocabed and all those who shared her devotion for the little one — who became such a great one. (4) For your presence at the Nile River on that most eventful day. (5) For Moses' compassion — backed with action — even when it was misplaced. (6) For your ways of humbling us. (7) That vengeance is your job.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

Powerful in speech and action. Powerful by whose definition? Does God (through Stephen) say Moses was so gifted? We believe the answer is "yes," but because of selfish pride it was short-circuited — so with me — so with all who speak and act for God. However well trained and gifted we might be, without the inward, personal involvement with yourself, without the inward communion and Spirit's education, we say and do nothing that accomplishes your purpose. Your glory is eclipsed by our pride. Dear Lord, forgive!

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Here are needs of mine that arise from this text: (1) How can I care for the new ones of your family? (2) What risks can I take today that will indicate my trust in you? (3) Lead me to someone with a tender heart who will hear your word. (4) Prepare me to live an entirely different lifestyle for you — if such is to be. (5) Where can I get more power in speech and action? From you, I know — but how? (6) Moses' life was divided into periods — what are the periods of my life — maybe there aren't any. (7) Help me to bear patiently with the misunderstanding of men.

Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me through these verses: (1) "I risked all on one man, Moses." (2) "I work through unbelievers for my purposes." (3) "The wrath of men *never* works my righteousness."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Nigeria — Points for prayer: (1) *The Nigerian church* has grown with an influx of millions of non-Christians over the past 30 years. Pray for the correction of inherent dangers: a) *Massive evangelism without adequate discipling and biblical teaching.* Witchcraft, polygamy, tribalism and secret societies are serious problems which have not been adequately faced. b) *Materialism, position and power seeking, and selfishness* have further harmed the spiritual impact of churches. Divisions, fragmentation and a profusion of indigenous denominations and sects are the results. c) *Second generation nominalism* in both traditional and younger churches is becoming a problem of enormous proportions. Where the Holy Spirit has not broken through, immorality, corruption and sin can be just as prevalent among "Christians" as among the unsaved. d) *The rapid growth of the Aladura Churches* and other syncretistic, indigenous churches is a challenge for Bible-believing Christians. (2) *Praise God for Nigerian leadership* that has emerged for churches and a multiplicity of agencies and ministries. Almost all foreign mission work is under the supervision of local leadership. Yet the rapid growth of the Church and the enormous social and economic changes over the past 20 years have placed great strains on the leadership. a) *There are not enough mature, qualified leaders.* So pray for the 45+ seminaries and Bible schools and the expanding TEE programs run by many churches. b) *There is a serious generation gap.* Many older pastors are not able to meet the needs of better educated congregations, and few churches can meet the needs of young people who are often more at ease in English.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

A Friend I have, called Jesus,
Whose love is strong and true,
And never fails howe'er 'tis tried,
No matter what I do;
I've sinned against this love of His,
But when I knelt to pray,
Confessing all my guilt to Him,
The sin-clouds rolled away.
It's just like Jesus to roll the clouds away,
It's just like Jesus to keep me day by day,
It's just like Jesus all along the way,
It's just like His great love.

WEEK ONE

—Saturday—

I want to develop your own hatred for sin. Help me just now as I worship you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

Hate. I know you have an abhorrence of evil — that you hate sin because of what it does to man. Not that you are hate *per se*, but directed toward what hurts and hinders us. I'm so glad you do hate sin and all that makes us less than we could be. No variance in your love, this is but the other side of the same quality. Praise your name that you protect us from what would destroy us.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

You hate the evil in my life, not me. You purpose to develop all the qualities of eternal purpose and oppose all those which only hinder and defeat. I'm delighted you have decided in your word just what is and is not to be opposed. I want to develop the same abhorrence for evil. I want to truly *hate* sin and *love* righteousness.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God, and God who hates evil? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

It is curious that I should now here relate to the reverse of righteous hatred and talk about, pray about, and confess to my righteous Father my need to be forgiven of "railing." It would seem that one form or another of this sin appears so very often — we rail at one another and at you. Cutting one another down in a false form of humor is one expression of this sin. Dear Lord, give me the deep love I want for all and most of all for you.

What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
And, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.

HIS WORD

²⁶"The next day Moses came upon two Israelites who were fighting. He tried to reconcile them by saying, 'Men, you are brothers; why do you want to hurt each other?'

²⁷"But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses aside and said, 'Who made you ruler and judge over us?' ²⁸Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?' ²⁹When Moses heard this, he fled to Midian, where he settled as a foreigner and had two sons.

³⁰"After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning bush in the desert near Mount Sinai. ³¹When he saw this, he was amazed at the sight. As he went over to look more closely, he heard the Lord's voice: ³²'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.' Moses trembled with fear and did not dare to look. ³³"Then the Lord said to him, 'Take off your sandals, the place where you are standing is holy ground. ³⁴I have indeed seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their groaning and have come down to set them free. Now come, I will send you back to Egypt.'

³⁵"This is the same Moses whom they had rejected with the words, 'Who made you ruler and judge?' He was sent to be their ruler and deliverer by God himself, through the angel who appeared to him in

the bush. ³⁶He led them out of Egypt and did wonders and miraculous signs in Egypt at the Red Sea and for forty years in the desert." — *Acts 7:26-36, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

The hatred and frustration and impatience of man — the abuse and misuse of time and body — no worship and total selfish interest — how odious all this must be to you, and yet you are at work. There is a message in all this for us. There is a pattern in all man's mistreatment of himself and his fellowman. Did you decide Moses must flee and leave instead of staying and opposing? "After forty years had passed" — I'm sure you know how many days and weeks and months are in forty years, but not one word about one day of the 14,600 days in the forty years.

Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I see myself a good deal like Moses — a late starter — how late to start we all are in so many areas. I have preached and taught 40 years from June 1939 to June 1979. There are so many lessons to learn, and so many I did, but many more I did not. After 40 years an angel of God appeared to him in the flames of a burning bush. Dear God, please appear to me in the mundane of this day. May some common thing I have seen a thousand times suddenly ignite and burn with your power and beauty and warmth. Dear God, may I have eyes to see and ears to hear!

It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

Indeed, indeed I do: (1) For perception for evaluation of what I should decide — you decide, through me. (2) That all men are brothers. Oh, oh, that we might claim this blessed truth! (3) That what is done in secret will be proclaimed in public. (4) That time is not at all a part of eternity — and yet so precious to man. (5) That you and your communication are a flame in a bush — so like me me — and all us preachers. (6) Dear God, you are not dead. You see and hear our groanings! (7) He who men reject can be accepted and used of God.

Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Who made you a ruler and judge?" Man resents deeply any man anytime assuming rights not given — yet God has set and sent men over other men as rulers and deliverers (not judges in the sense of condemnation). And who does God use? Look — (1) A tongue-tied old man. (2) A misfit from Egypt. (3) A Jew who lived like the Gentiles. (4) A man with a story no one would believe. (5) One who established a deep, deep reverence for God. (6) One who lost all confidence in

himself and gained it all back a thousandfold as he placed his confidence in God. (7) One who obeyed God's words in spite of everything and everyone.

Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Requests from Hebrew history: (1) May I wait upon your timing. (2) Give me the humility to recognize your negative answers. (3) Help me to see that inactivity can be productive. (4) Speak to me today in the ordinary circumstances of my life. (5) Give me a compassionate heart for those who suffer. (6) Where is the "Red Sea" in my life? (7) Open my eyes to follow our prophet, my Lord.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

What does the record of Moses say to me? (1) "Stand still and see the salvation of your God." (2) "I speak today in my holy word." (3) "Men still await a deliverer."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Nigeria — Points for prayer: (1) *The Southeast — this region was pioneered by Presbyterians, Catholics, QIM, etc.* The Christians are in a large majority. The civil war was a harrowing time, and through the suffering came spiritual deepening and revival to many congregations. Outreach has been vigorous. (2) *Unreached peoples and areas in the SE.* The Igala to the north, and some peoples of the Niger River and Delta, and Cameroon border areas are less evangelized. The need must be better researched, and local believers mobilized for cross-cultural outreach, church planting and Bible translation to those groups who are more needy. (3) *The Southwest — the Christian majority is predominantly Anglican, Methodist and Baptist,* the result of mission endeavor in the last century, and also major indigenous denominations. It is respectable to be a Christian, but occultic influences, the Ogbuni cult, secret societies, as well as worldliness, stagnation and lack of outreach are common among Christians. (4) *The Muslim Yoruba* are a large minority in the cities and northern part of the SW region. Few Christians have sought to evangelize them.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Jesus is all the world to me,
My life, my joy, my all;
He is my strength from day to day,
Without him I would fall.
When I am sad, to Him I go,
No other one can cheer me so;
When I am sad He makes me glad,
He's my Friend.