

The Six 'Get' Booklets

In Acts 2, right at the start of the first church in Jerusalem, we see several distinct things happening to the new believers: they **got born again** through repentance, they **got water baptised**, they **got filled with the Spirit**, and they **got joined to a local church**.

These booklets reflect these 4 vital early steps for the new believer, and the fifth one called **Get Gifted** takes us on into the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Although they work as 'stand alone' reads, Godfirst Church runs regular courses of different lengths based on each booklet.

Get Started: To help you get going as a new Christian.

Get Started Daily: 30 days of bible reading for the new believer.

Get Baptised: To help you get water baptised.

Get Connected: About the vision, values and membership of Godfirst Church.

Get Filled: To help you get filled with the Holy Spirit.

Get Gifted: To help you get going in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Other Resources by PJ

Healing: Biblical principles, practises and encouragement to pray for the sick.

Money Matters: Developing biblical attitudes and actions with finance.

The Sword: Learning how to understand, enjoy and apply the bible to our lives.

Relationships and Sexuality: A comprehensive look at relationships and sexuality.

Getting Ready for Marriage: To help you get ready for engagement or marriage.

Quick-Start Parenting: For parents who just want the really important bits...and fast.

The World Needs More Apostles: Producing a new generation of apostles.

The World Needs More Elders: Producing a new generation of elders and leaders.

The World Needs More Preachers: Producing a new generation of mighty preachers.

The World Needs More Small Group Leaders: Producing more small group leaders.

Please visit www.godfirst.co.za to download these resources

About this Booklet

Dear Reader

This booklet provides 30 days of bible reading. It will work well for any believer although it has been written with the new believer especially in mind. It works well either as a 'stand alone' booklet or to accompany Get Started.

*These daily bible reading notes are geared to help **you get started** in the daily delight of reading God's Word. The aim is that after the 30 days are up you will be able to feed on God's word yourself without these notes. Having said that, most Christian bookshops sell bible reading notes similar to these ones that many Christians find to be a great help in the discipline and delight of daily bible reading.*

Check out this great verse:

From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Tim 3v15-17).

God's word is mighty to encourage us daily and to steadily transform us, and I have written these notes from some of my favourite passages in the bible. I know that God will use them to get you addicted to Jesus and his wonderful Word.

*Enjoy.
PJ*

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DAY 1

FIRMLY ROOTED

Theme: Reading the Bible

Text: Psalm 1v1-3

Pray

Start by thanking God for the many blessings he has given you, such as family, friends, things, and most of all for giving you himself. Ask him to speak to you through the bible as you read it now.

Read

Psalm 1v1-3. Be open to the Holy Spirit showing you things. Then, use the following notes to help you meditate on it and apply it to your life.

Verse 1: We know from other parts of the bible, and the example of Jesus, that God wants us to spend a lot of our time with people who are not Christians to help introduce them to Jesus. But here in verse 1, God is warning us not to be too deeply involved with those that do not yet know Jesus.

Apply: Are there people or situations that you are too involved in, and you need to draw back a bit?

Verse 2: Instead of our delight being in sin and sinners, God is saying in Verse 2 that we should increasingly delight in the bible. Meditate means to read a portion daily, and then think about it and apply it all day long. Cricketers sometimes chew the same bit of chewing gum all day. As Christians, the special time that we spend with Jesus each day is like putting the chewing gum into our mouths, and then we can chew on it all day...and often the taste gets stronger not weaker!

Verse 3: If you spend regular time in the bible, then God says in verse 3 that you will become like a well-planted tree. If your life is rooted each day in the bible, what are three things that verse 3 says will happen to you?

(1) (2) (3)

Apply: Do you need to commit afresh to a daily time and place where you can spend time with Jesus through prayer and bible reading?

Don't be a Bonzai Believer

The Japanese have a form of art called Bonzai miniature trees. The secret lies in cutting off the main tap root which would otherwise go deep allowing the tree to secure all the nutrients necessary to grow big and strong. In the absence of the tap root, all the tree has is lots of small, shallow roots. Don't be a bonsai Christian! Get the roots down deep into God's Word!

Time of Prayer

Thank God for the life-giving water of his Word, and ask God to help you chew on it daily, and get your roots down deep. Commit the day ahead to God in prayer, and pray for the needs of people close to you. Remember, their biggest need is to become a Christian so make sure you pray for that!

DAY 2

PRIORITY TIME WITH GOD

Theme: Reading the Bible
Text: Mk 1v35-37

Pray

Use some verses from Psalm 96 to help you express your love and worship to Jesus.

Read Mark 1v35-37 and answer the following questions:

What time did Jesus get up each day to have his time with his Father?
.....

Where did he have daily time with God?

Looking at V37, do you think that Jesus had a busy and pressured life?
.....

Even though busy, did he prioritise daily time alone with God?
.....

Apply

Allow the answers to these questions to stir you afresh to regular, personal time with the Lord each day. Do you need to make a fresh resolution to a certain time and place each day?

The largest living animal is the Rorqual, or Blue Whale. It is 30m long and weighs over 120 tonnes. It is longer than 10 elephants and as heavy as 20! But did you know that it feeds regularly on tiny shrimps?! To grow big and strong, your daily appointment doesn't need to be long, but it does need to be regular! It is usually better to have smaller, daily meals rather than a binge once a week. You will probably start off by spending just a few minutes each day reading and praying, and then as the days go by you may well find that you need more and more time with Jesus.

Time of Prayer

Pray these things into your life, pray for the day ahead, and pray for other people and situations.

DAY 3

BORN AGAIN

Theme: Salvation

Text: John 3v1-7

Pray

Start today by looking around the room and out of the window and thanking God for all these blessings to you that you can see. By the way, you are allowed to pray with your eyes open like Jesus did in John 17v1!

Read John 3v1-7

Be open to the Holy Spirit showing you things. Then, use the following notes to help you meditate on, and apply these verses to your life.

Verse 2: Why do you think Nicodemus visited Jesus at night? Do you think he was embarrassed about his faith? Are you?

Verses 3-7: Jesus is not fooled by Nicodemus' pretty speech in verse 2, and goes straight to the heart of matter. He tells Nicodemus that although he is alive (i.e. he has been born of water – a reference to the breaking of waters at birth), he is actually spiritually dead, and that he needs a spiritual birth. This is the only way to enter the kingdom of God.

Many expressions, same meaning: The bible uses a variety of expressions to describe the amazing act of becoming a Christian. They all basically mean the same thing. Some examples include *being born again* (John 3v3&7), *believing in Jesus* (John 3v16), *receiving Jesus* (John 1v12), *repenting of your sin* (Matthew 4v17), *getting saved* (Luke 19v9). I think my favourite expression is "you must be born again" because it speaks of a brand new life. 2 Corinthians 5v17 says "*If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has gone. The new has come!*" Once a Christian, you are totally new. You have not turned over a new leaf; you have become a completely new tree! God has re-born you in the Spirit. You have been born into his family! Hallelujah!

The Countess of Huntingdon, who was a firm supporter of the great evangelist Whitefield, once asked him why he persisted so often in preaching on John 3:7, 'You must be born again.' Whitefield's famous reply was as compelling as it was direct: 'Madam,' he replied, 'because you must!!'

Time of Prayer

Thank God for this new life that you have through Jesus! Now, pray with passion and urgency for your friends who also *must* be born again.

DAY 4

SAFE FOREVER

Theme: Salvation

Text: John 6v35-44

Pray

Start off with some prayers of worship, and ask God to speak to you this morning through the bible.

Read

Read John 6v35-44 slowly, enjoying these amazing statements of Jesus. This passage is one of many in the bible that affirms that once we have believed in Jesus then you belong to him for eternity. Answer the questions asked below basing your answers on the verses indicated:

Verse 35: Does Jesus satisfy your inner hunger and thirst?

Verse 37: You have been “given” by the Father to Jesus. This means that the Father worked in your heart so you would receive Jesus and become a Christian. Will Jesus ever drive you away?

Verse 39: Will Jesus ever lose you?

Verse 40: You have looked to Jesus, and received eternal life. The “last day” is the day of judgement when you will be welcomed into heaven! Will God keep you safe for that “last day”?

Time of Prayer

Turn each of these verses into prayers of thanks. E.g. v35: “Lord, I thank you that you satisfy me more than money, sport, or other people. Help me to drink and eat of you today”.

DAY 5

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Theme: New life new lifestyle

Text: Galatians 5v16-26

Pray

Start off with some prayers of thanks and worship, and ask God to speak to you today through what you read.

Read Galatians 5v1-26

Once a man had two dogs that he fought each Saturday in the market place. He would take bets as to whether the black dog or the brown dog would win. Each week a different dog won and the man made much money because he always seemed to know which of his dogs would win. One day a friend asked him “how do you always know which dog will win on Saturday?” The dog owner replied, “the dog I feed the most during that week always wins on Saturday.”

Verses 16-18: Paul speaks of two ‘dogs’ that are “in conflict with each other”. What are the names of these 2 dogs?

.....
Verses 19-21: Which dog’s characteristics are mentioned here?

.....
 Which of these bad characteristics do you struggle with the most?

.....
Verses 22-23: Which dog’s characteristics are mentioned here?

.....
 Which of these good characteristics do you *lack* the most?

Feed the “Spirit dog” in you by prayer, bible reading and fellowship with other Christians. Starve the “flesh dog” in you by only reading and watching things that are good for you. By doing this, the Spirit Dog will win the daily fight!

Time of Prayer

Ask God to help you overcome the ‘dog’ of the flesh and thank him for his unconditional love for you. Thank God for the fruit of the Spirit that you are growing in, and ask God for more of those fruits and any you lack.

DAY 6

LETTUCES

Theme: Perseverance

Text: Hebrews 12v1-3

Pray

A Welshman called Ben Davies taught me to begin the day by thanking God for the clothes on my back and the roof over my head! Also pray that what you read today will change you forever!

Read Hebrews 12v1-3

Be open to the Holy Spirit showing you things. Then, use the following notes to help you meditate on, and apply these verses to your life.

A word of explanation: The ‘great cloud of witnesses’ refers to all the Christians mentioned in the previous chapter who are now in heaven cheering you on.

Lettuces: In the NIV translation (probably the one you are reading), there are three ‘lettuces’ – not the vegetable, but “let us” is said three times. List these 3 ‘lettuces’:

Let us

Let us

Let us

Did you get them? *Let us throw off sin, let us run with perseverance, and let us fix our eyes on Jesus.*

Apply

What sins do you need *to cast off*, because they are tripping you up and preventing you running for Jesus as well as you might? Repent of them now in prayer, and resolve not to let them get a grip on you again.

Are you *running with perseverance*? If not, take heart from the third ‘lettuce’, and *fix your eyes on Jesus*. And read verse 3 again. Jesus is our example for all things, especially perseverance. Are there things that have lured your eyes off Jesus?

As an elderly man, former Prime Minister of England Winston Churchill visited his old school called Harrow on the outskirts of London. Although Winston was very frail, the Headmaster begged him to say just a few words to the boys. Winston staggered to the podium, leaned on his stick, and said in his deep, gruff voice, 'Never give up. Never. Never. Never. Never'. Then he sat down. What good advice.

Time of Prayer

Pray along the lines of these three lettuces. Think about the perseverance that Jesus displayed throughout his life, and especially on the cross. Worship him that he never gave up, and that he never gives up on you!

DAY 7

A TRUE FATHER

Theme: Perseverance

Text: Hebrews 12v7-11

Pray

Today, we are carrying on in Hebrews 12. Begin today by 'fixing your eyes on Jesus' by worshipping and thanking him for who he is, and all he is doing in your life. Pray that as you read on today in the bible, that he would make your faith stronger.

Read Hebrews 12v7-13

Be open to the Holy Spirit showing you things. Then, use the following notes to help you meditate on, and apply these verses to your life. What do you think is the main theme of this passage?

Verses 7-10: good parents discipline their children. The writer of Hebrews is arguing that the very fact that God disciplines and corrects us is proof that we really are his children. If a child in the street is being naughty, you would not discipline it....unless of course it was your own child.

Verse 11: recently, my son Jack uttered the phrase that most children say at some stage: "But Dad, if you love me then why do you smack me?" To which I replied using the phrase that countless fathers have said: "Jack, it is because I love you that I smack you". Jack still isn't convinced...but he will be! It will produce a harvest of righteousness in his life. It will train him.

Just as a mother eagle pushes her young out of the comfort of the nest, so also will our heavenly 'mother eagle' allow discomfort and correction to come to us in order to get us flying.

Apply

God is serious about parenting us. This involves encouragement and many nice things, but also some serious character work. He will challenge us to a holy lifestyle. He will refine us into purer people. He often uses circumstances and people to discipline us. Don't run away. Welcome it.

Time of Prayer

Thank God that he is a committed and hands-on parent. Ask him to refine you into an obedient child of God, and to strengthen you whilst he goes to work on you. Confess and repent of any areas of sin that you are aware of. Thank God for his forgiveness and unconditional love.

DAY 8

CLIMBING TREES

Theme: Salvation
Text: Luke 19v1-10

Pray

Psalm 119v105 says that the bible is “a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”. Pray that what you read today will light up the way for you.

Read

Read Luke 19v1-10. Be open to the Holy Spirit showing you things. Then, use the following notes to help you meditate on, and apply these verses to your life.

Verse 2: Judging from this description, do you think Zacchaeus was a popular guy?

Verses 3-4: Are you still passionate to see more of Jesus?
Like Zacchaeus, what obstacles do you have that need to be overcome in order to see Jesus better?.....
Is there a “tree” that, if you climbed it, would get you closer to Jesus? Maybe getting up earlier in the morning to spend daily time with him, or committing to getting along to church each week?

Verse 5: Out of the entire crowd, why do you think that Jesus singled out Zacchaeus?
Did Jesus suggest that Zacchaeus “think about” opening his life to him, or did he tell him to obey “immediately”? Is there an area in which you need to start obeying Jesus *immediately*?

Verse 7: Isn't it interesting how many people mistakenly think that church is only for 'good' people! But Jesus said, “it is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick”.

Verse 8: Only minutes after Zacchaeus had invited Jesus into his house, he began to live a changed life. When 'new life' came into his heart, a 'new lifestyle' accompanied it. Because you are now a Christian, what areas of your life need to be adjusted?.....

Do you need to make right with anyone? If so, do so immediately.

Time of Prayer

In V9-10, Jesus declares that Zacchaeus got “saved”. Can you remember the day that salvation came to your ‘house’? Thank Jesus that he sought you out and saved you. Pray that Jesus will do the same for your unsaved friends.

DAY 9

SEE FOR YOURSELF

Theme: Salvation

Text: 1 John 5v1-13

Pray

Start off with some prayers of worship, and ask God to speak to you this morning through the bible.

Read

Read 1 John 5v1-13. This passage is one of many in the bible that affirms that once we have believed in Jesus, repented of our sin, and received him, then you belong to him for eternity.

Verse 1: Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ? If you do, then you are born of God.

Verses 11-13: Are you getting the message? If you have believed in and 'received' Jesus, then you have eternal life. Isn't that great?

Resisting the doubts of the devil

The story is told of a young Christian who accepted Christ, went home, and before going to sleep, read these words from John 10v28-29 *"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand."* In the night, the devil came to him and said, "You are not saved. It is all a myth." Switching on the light, he opened his bible and pointed at the verse he had read earlier, and said to the devil, "There it is – read it for yourself!"

I play a game with my boys in which they hold a coin in their hands, and I easily open their little fingers and steal it. Then, I hold the coin in my hand, and no matter what they do they can't take it out of my hand. Who can wrestle *you* out of God the Father's hand? No one! You are safe forever. Your salvation depends on fact not feelings ... and the facts are right here in the Word of God! So, who are you going to believe, God or the devil?

But what if I sin? We will look at this matter tomorrow, but the answer is that you need to confess and say sorry to God, but of course you don't lose your status as a Christian! You can't lose your sonship. You can't get tossed out of God's family!

Apply

Because our salvation is secure, it means we can serve God out of security and delight, rather than out of fear. Bounce around today in the security you have in God! Hallelujah!

Time of Prayer

Thank God for this new life that you have through Jesus. Thank him that you are 100% secure in him. Thank him that your salvation is based on him, not you. Now, pray with passion and urgency for your friends who must also be born again.

DAY 10

WHAT WHEN I SIN?

Theme: Salvation

Text: 1 John 1v5 to 2v2

Pray

Yesterday, we saw how John, in the final chapter of this letter, went all out to assure his readers that because their salvation was a free gift from God, they could not lose their salvation either by sinning, or by the devil somehow stealing them from the family of God, or by any other way. Why? Because their salvation does not depend on them, but rather on God. Thank and worship him for this.

Read

Read 1 John 1v5 to 2v2 using the following notes to help you understand it:

Verses 5-7: John is saying that we who are “in the light” should “walk in the light”, which is fitting for those who are in the light!

Verses 8-10: I believe that these verses refer primarily to non-Christians who need to acknowledge their sin, become born again and begin to walk as a child of the light.

Verses 1-2: But once a child of the light, John says again that we should not sin. But, if we do, we can rejoice that on the cross, Jesus took all our sin away. He is our defence protecting us from the holy wrath of God against sin. This means that you will never, ever be punished for any sin you do, because Jesus took all the punishment for your sin and the sin of the whole world, when he died on the cross.

Immediate confession: At the moment of your conversion, God forgave all your sins, past and future. In a flash you became washed of all your sin and became one of God’s children, a royal child! But, because you still live in a sinful world, you sometimes forget your Christian responsibilities and don’t behave in a royal way. As soon as you realise that you have sinned, do the 3 C’s:

Confess: this means acknowledge your sin in prayer, and ask for God's forgiveness. This "sorry" that you are saying to God is because you have displeased him. When my boys are naughty, they don't stop being my sons, but they still need to say sorry.

Consider: think why you sinned. What can you do to avoid that happening again?

Continue: get back up and carry on, confident in God's unconditional love and acceptance of you.

Time of Prayer

Take time now to prayerfully *confess* and *consider*. Then, thank God for strength to *continue*! Don't forget to pray for God's work in the lives of your friends, family and colleagues.

DAY 11

MY FIRST LOVE

Theme: Wholeheartedness

Text: Revelation 2v1-7

Pray

Read Revelation 1v12-18 and then overflow with praise and love for The One you have read about! Ask the Lord of Glory to “place his hand on you” (V17) and speak to you through what you read today.

Read Revelation 2v1-7

Be open to the Holy Spirit showing you things. Then, use the following notes to help you meditate on, and apply these verses to your life.

A word of explanation: the book of revelation is a dream that God gave to John, one of the disciples, when he was on the island of Patmos (see Revelation 1v9-11). It is a wonderful book that mostly deals in image form with what will happen when Jesus returns. But before God starts to show John all those exciting things, he dictates a letter for John to give to seven churches in the province of Asia. These are recorded in Chapters 2 and 3. Although the letters are written to churches, they are applicable to an individual Christian because that is what churches consist of! You are reading the letter to the church in Ephesus.

Verses 2-3: Make a note of the things that Jesus is commending this church for:

Verse 4: Despite all the amazing things they are doing well, what is the one thing mentioned that they are lacking in?

Verse 5: Note the 3 things Jesus asks them to do (1) Remember (2) Repent and (3) Live like they did at first.

Apply

Have you grown a little weary and lacking in the same freshness and zeal you had when you were first saved? *Remember* those times now. Allow the memories to stir you again! Then *repent* of ‘the height from which you have fallen’. What attitudes or actions do you now need to take to *get living* like ‘you did at first’?

Time of Prayer

Pray into these things, drawing on God’s love and help for the future. Can you think of any Christian friends who have also lost their first love? Pray for them, and then get together with them and share with them what God has shown you today. Go for it!

DAY 12

OBEDIENCE LEADS TO BLESSING

Theme: Wholeheartedness

Text: Luke 5v1-9

Pray

Start by thanking God for the many blessings he has given you (family, friends, things, himself), and ask him to speak to you through the bible as you read it now.

Read: Luke 5v1-11

Be open to the Holy Spirit showing you things. Then, use the following notes to help you meditate on, and apply these verses to your life.

Verses 1-3: Isn't it thrilling that God wanted to use not just Peter, but also Peter's boat for his purposes. **Apply:** Like Peter, are you making your possessions available for God to use? Did God bless Peter for making his boat available?

Verses 4-5: It seems that Peter felt that Jesus was asking him to do something that made no sense. According to the end of v5, what simple reason does Peter give for obeying?

Verses 6-7: What was the result of Peter's obedience to Jesus?

Verses 8-10: Peter realised that doubting Jesus is sinful.

Verses 10-11: Jesus invited Peter to follow him, saying that he would take all the natural talents and abilities that Peter had (such as his fishing ability), and use them for his purposes. **Apply:** what abilities has God given you? How can you use them for God's purposes? Are there some "boats" in your life that you need to leave behind if you are to whole-heartedly follow Jesus?

A Greek shipping tycoon: a missionary was catching a ride on a merchant vessel in the Mediterranean. The Greek owner of the fleet happened to be on board, and invited the missionary to join him on the bridge. Towards the end of their time together, the millionaire tycoon exclaimed "Ah, I have decided to allow one of my vessels to be used by God". The missionary quietly replied, "God wants your heart more than your ship. Of course, if he gets your heart, he gets all your ships!"

Time of Prayer: Through prayer, surrender yourself and your possessions afresh to Jesus.

DAY 13

A GUARD ON MY LIPS

Theme: New life new lifestyle

Text: Various verses from Psalms and Proverbs

Pray

Start by thanking God for the many blessings he has given you (family, friends, things, himself), and ask him to speak to you through the bible as you read it now.

A word of explanation: When reading the bible, it is usually best to read a passage, and then draw out meaning and application from that passage. However, sometimes it is helpful to draw together a number of verses from different places in the bible, that all deal with the same topic. Today, you will be looking up several different verses about 'the tongue'.

Look up and read the following verses from the book of Proverbs.

The proverbs were written by King Solomon, who was David's son. Like his father, Solomon was passionate to control the power of the tongue in a way that was pleasing to God.

Pr 10v19

Pr 12v18

Pr 18v13

Pr 13v3

Look up and read the following verses from the book of Psalms. The psalms are Christian poetry written mostly by King David. David was a very godly man, and it is evident that he had to constantly draw on God's strength to keep his tongue in check.

Psalm 17v3

Psalm 39v1

Psalm 141v3

Apply

The first two verses express David's determination to watch his words. Then the third verse is David asking God to help him. What a good combination - you do your best and trust God for the rest.

Time of Prayer

Turn Psalm 19v14 into a prayer. Turn Psalm 141v3 into a prayer.

DAY 14

A SHINING EXAMPLE

Theme: New life new lifestyle

Text: 1 Thessalonians 1v1-10

Pray

Start by thanking God for the many blessings he has given you (family, friends, things, himself), and ask him to speak to you through the bible as you read it now.

Read 1 Thessalonians 1v1-10

This passage is packed with golden nuggets of truth, but I want to draw your attention to verses 5-7.

Verse 5: The gospel came to these people through (1) spoken words (2) a demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit – maybe people got supernaturally healed, and (3) through the lifestyle of Paul and his friends.

Verse 6: The result was that these non-Christians got born again, and then began to imitate the Christian way of life that they saw demonstrated.

Verse 7: Then, they became a shining example to many others.

Our lifestyles are a powerful form of evangelism. If we fail to “*walk the talk*” the things we say hold no weight. If we don’t “*practise what we preach*” then no one will be impressed. St. Francis made the point by saying “*preach the gospel to all people using words if necessary*”. A preacher once said “*it’s not the message that is faulty, it’s the advertising*”. The advertising is you and me.

Especially early on in our Christian walk our families and friends are watching to see if our new found faith is just a “phase” or whether it is really going to change us. A changed lifestyle is proof of true change. We are to live a godly lifestyle not just to please Jesus, but also as an advert for Christianity. Our lifestyles should be so different that they provoke people to ask questions. On my first night at university I cleaned up the vomit of a drunken student at 2am. The next day his brother came to me to thank me and he asked why I did it. This led us into a conversation that caused him, his brother and a friend to commit their lives to Christ. LIVE IT rather than speak it. Then BECAUSE you are living it people will ask questions. THEN you can speak it.

Time of Prayer

Pray these things home. Commit your day to Jesus.

DAY 15

DOERS OF THE WORD

Theme: Reading the Bible

Text: James 1v22-25 and Matthew 7v24-27

Pray

Use some verses from Psalm 98 to help you express your love and worship to Jesus.

Read James 1v22-25 and answer the following questions:

What should you do in addition to just hearing or reading the word?

If you don't do the word, what does James say you are like?

Verse 25 says that a person who does not forget the word of God, but does it, will be

It is interesting how strongly James feels about us living out our faith, with much of this short letter dealing with the out-working of our faith. In this passage, he is stressing the importance of *doing*, not just *hearing* the word. If we just hear, it profits us nothing. If there is no obedience to God's word, then we are just 'playing church'.

Read Matthew 7v24-27 and answer the following questions:

Did both men hear the word of God?

Did both put what they had heard into practice?

What were the results in their lives?

Luke 6v46 says *"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord' but do not do the things I say?"*

Apply

What can I learn and apply to my life from these scriptures?

Time of Prayer

Ask God to help you put into practise all that he shows you through his word. Is there a particular issue in which you are disobeying God's word? Start obeying! Life the life! Walk the talk!

DAY 16

TEAM WORK

Theme: Telling others

Text: Mark 2v1-12

Pray

Psalm 100v4 says “Enter his gates with thanksgiving”. Start your time today with an attitude of gratitude.

Read

Read Mark 2v1-12. Be open to the Holy Spirit showing you things. Then, use the following notes to help you meditate on, and apply these verses to your life.

Verses 1-2: If our lives and churches are full of Jesus, crowds will also gather to us.

Verses 3-5: On a scale of 1-10, what would you give the 4 friends for their determination? I would give them full marks because they overcame 3 sizeable obstacles: (1) The paralysis of their friend (2) The opposition of the crowd and (3) The roof!

It takes guts and determination and initiative to bring our unsaved friends to Jesus. But Jesus will work a miracle if we can get them to him.

Apply

Your unsaved friend or family member is paralysed (i.e. they don't know how to find Jesus), and maybe the crowd (peer pressure) is trying to stop them. How can you get them to meet Jesus? What 'roof' needs to be broken? Do you need to work as a team with some other Christians? The strength of your Small Group and Church is that you can work as a **TEAM!** It almost always takes a team effort to get someone saved! In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul speaks about the church as a body made up of different parts. You may be a very good “ear” (good at listening to and caring for people) but you might not be a very good “mouth” (good at actually explaining the gospel). No problem, because we can work as a team! Bring them along to your Cell Group of a Sunday meeting where the preacher can be the “mouth” for you! Let's work as a team.

Verse 10: Do you think that the man's problem of sin was actually more serious than his problem of paralysis? I think so. Sin is the most deadly disease known to man. Romans 6v23 says that the consequence of sin is death. This means eternal death in hell when you die, but also being spiritually dead towards God in this life.

Apply

Let us never lose sight of the fact that no matter how pressing our unsaved friends problems seem to be, God's plan is to use these problems to show them their deeper problem of sin, so they can repent and be born again.

Time of Prayer

Think of two paralysed (unsaved) friends. Pray that God will reveal himself to them. Pray for determination and a plan to help you get them to Jesus. Pray against any obstacles sent by the devil that may try to prevent that.

DAY 17

SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY

Theme: Telling others

Text: 1 Peter 3v15-18

Pray

In the book of James 1v22 it says “Do not merely listen to the word ... also do what it says!” Pray that God would help you *do* what you read today.

Read 1 Peter 3v15-18

Whilst reading it think to yourself “I must read it and do it, read it and do it, read it and do it”.

Verse 15: Peter is telling you that you must be ready at *any and every occasion* to tell someone why you are a Christian, and how they can become one too. The Royal National Lifeboat Institute’s motto is “Semper Paratus” meaning “Always Prepared”. This is now your motto too. Today, you are going to get prepared. But before we launch into that, what attitude does Peter say we should have when we share our faith with others?

Apply

There are many different ways of sharing your faith with someone. One of the simplest and most effective ways is called ‘sharing your testimony’. Testimony means, “to bear witness to”. You are now able to “bear witness to” what Jesus has done for you, and the wonderful thing is that no one can dispute it with you. The most convincing adverts on TV are those when a well-known personality stands up and says, “I use this product and it works for me”. To those who know you, you are a well-known personality. Your ‘advert’ is so powerful because it is you telling people that God really works today in a real world in your real life.

Prayerfully fill in this table, and then practise saying it until you have got it down to about 1-minute:

2 aspects of your life before coming to Christ
Some key thoughts and events leading to the decision
2 things that Jesus has done in your life since your conversion

N.B. Although your testimony may sound weak and simple, God will use it challenge and change many whom you speak it to. Take courage. It is more about God than about you!

Once you have told it to someone, if you feel the moment is right (and it usually is!), offer to lead them in a prayer of salvation so they can also become born again.

DAY 18

GOSPEL OUTLINE

Theme: Telling others

Text: Romans 10v13-15

Pray

Luke 6v46 says “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord’ but do not do the things I say?” Ask God to help you but into practise the things he says to you today.

Read Romans 10v13-15

Do you see the progression? Paul starts by saying that anyone who calls on God will be saved, but this can only happen if they hear the gospel, which in turn, can only happen if someone tells it to them. Below is what is called a “Gospel Outline” for you to learn and use.

Get the conversation to the place of saying, “Could I take a couple of minutes to show you a couple of verses that explain simply what it means to become a Christian”? Then, show them these 4 verses explaining them as you go.

1. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3v23)

Explain that everyone is a sinner.

2. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6v23)

Explain that the ‘wage’ or consequence of sin is death. This means being spiritually dead towards God on earth, and then going to hell when you die. ‘But’ ... thank God that this is not the end of the story! God has a free gift of life for every sinner. Notice that this ‘gift’ comes “in Christ Jesus”. This means that to receive eternal life, you must receive Jesus. Like any gift, you can choose to either accept it or reject it.

3. To all who received him to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become the children of God (John 1v12)

Explain that receiving him means becoming part of God’s family.

4. If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10v9)

Explain that they can do this right now by praying a prayer. Ask if they would like you to lead them in a short prayer:

A prayer for salvation

“Jesus, I understand that my sin is separating me from having a relationship with you now, and stopping me from going to heaven. I am so sorry for my sin. I repent and turn from it. Please forgive me and wash me of all my sin. I believe in you Jesus, that you are Lord. I welcome you into my life as Lord. Thank you that I am now your child. Amen.”

Time of Prayer

Thank God for your salvation. Pray for opportunities to share your testimony and gospel outline with people. Commit the day ahead to God in prayer, and pray for the needs of people close to you.

DAY 19

A SALTY LIFESTYLE

Theme: Telling others

Text: Matthew 5v11-16

Pray

Look up Isaiah 64v8 and ask God to mould and shape you as you spend time with him now.

Read Matthew 5v11-16

Jesus says that you are salt. In those days, *impure* salt containing grit and rock would be thrown out and used along footpaths because of its rock-like qualities. Here are two things that pure salt does:

1. Salt improves the flavour of food: your presence in your home and place of work should improve the flavour of life for those around you. Be cheerful and helpful. Why? See Verse 16 for the answer.

2. Salt makes people thirsty: we are to *live and speak* in such a way as to cause people to think more about God, and to provoke them to “thirst” and ask questions. We all know that too much salt can be disgusting, so obviously you need to be careful not to “bleat” on and on about God, but rather to speak naturally in a way that intrigues people. Here are some examples of salty speech:

When someone tells you of a problem, say “I’ll be praying for that”.

When people complain about the economy, say “Yes, but I’m glad God is in control”

When something good has happened to you, say “...and I’m so grateful to God..”

When people are uncertain about their life plans: “Well, I will be praying that you know God’s leading in this matter”

What does Verse 16 assure us will be the result of our good lifestyle?

.....

Time of Prayer

Pray that God will help you live a life today that provokes those around you to want to know more about Jesus.

DAY 20

FEEDING YOURSELF

Theme: Reading the Bible

Text: Joshua 1v1-19

These daily bible reading notes are geared to help ***you get started*** in the daily delight of reading God's Word. The aim is that after the 30 days are up you will be able to feed on God's word yourself without these notes. Having said that, most Christian bookshops sell bible reading notes similar to these ones that many Christians find to be a great help in the discipline and delight of daily bible reading.

One of the dangers of Bible Notes like these is that it can cause us to become lazy and end up feeding of the notes more than the bible!

So today, there are no notes! I am sure that by now you are capable of feeding off God's word by yourself, but if you are still a little unsure, then use the following outline:

Pray: start off with some prayers of worship, and ask God to speak to you through the bible.

Read: read the passage and see what verses or points 'jump out at you'. Chew on these things.

Apply: then apply what you have read to your daily life.

Time of Prayer: then pray these things into your life, pray for the day ahead, and pray for other people and situations.

DAY 21

KILLING GIANTS

Theme: Wholeheartedness

Text: 1 Sam 17v1-58

Pray

Today we are reading about an adolescent boy called David, who later became King David of Israel who wrote the book of Psalms. Psalm 5v3 says, *"In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice. In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation"*. Allow God to hear your voice this morning, in praise and thanks to him.

Read 1 Samuel 17 (yes, all 58 verses)

It is the story of an exciting historical event. As you read it, place yourself in David's shoes (sandals), and allow God to speak to you. Then, also allow the Holy Spirit to use the following questions to speak to you about certain things:

Verse 17: Although the day ended with David a hero, how did it start for him? Was he simply being faithful with the mundane and ordinary? Did God use his faithfulness to get him to the right place at the right time?

Verse 28: Do you think David was being arrogant and proud, or was his confidence in God misunderstood as pride?

Verse 34: Does God use our past experiences to prepare us for mighty exploits? Does this encourage you to work hard with the 'bump and grind' in your life, knowing that God is using it to prepare you?

Verse 46: Notice how David speaks his faith in God before it has actually happened! What can you learn from this? Faith-filled speech is powerful stuff!

Verse 47: Do you think that God likes to use insignificant and unlikely people for his purposes? Why? Does that encourage you?

Verse 52: Do acts of courage encourage others?

Time of Prayer: Psalm 5v3 says *"In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice. In the morning I lay my request before you and wait in expectation"*. Bring your requests to God. Lay all your thoughts and concerns before him and expectantly ask him to act on your behalf. Ask Jesus to help you conquer *every giant* that stands against you today.

DAY 22

ORDINARY PEOPLE EXTRAORDINARY GOD

Theme: Wholeheartedness

Text: Romans 16v1-25

A word of explanation: The letter of 'Romans' was written by Paul to the church that he was helping in Rome. This final chapter is his personal greetings to many of his dear friends in the church. Isn't it great that the church is a family of dear friends who know each other, and who are meaningfully involved in each other's lives.

Read the whole chapter

Enjoy seeing the different things that Paul commends different individuals for. The following notes highlight a few of them:

V5 Epenetus: What was the unique thing about Epenetus? Paul remembers back many years when this man was the only Christian in Asia. But by the time of writing this letter, there were many churches in Asia! God builds from small to big. He always starts with one person. Are you the only Christian in your family, or school or place of work? Take courage. God wants to use you to win others to Christ.

V7 Andronicus and Junias: This outstanding couple are complimented for being excellent apostles. Apostles are people who help start and strengthen new churches. Paul acknowledges the fact that they had been Christians longer than he had. Do you know people in your church that have been Christians longer than you? I suggest that you spend time with them and ask them lots of questions. They can help you with many things in your Christian race.

V10 Apelles: This man was complimented for being 'tested and approved' in Christ? What does this mean? Do you think that God sometimes allows our faith to be tested, so that it will be stronger afterwards, and therefore be an example to many?

V12 Tryphena and Tryphosa: Are you *working hard* for the Lord? God is looking for devoted followers, not people who use Christianity as a hobby. Loving your family, working hard, being kind and hospitable and so on is all work for the Lord, as well as working hard in the church.

V13 Rufus' Mum: In the Christian family of your church, there is a great need for older ladies to be 'motherly' and older men to be 'fatherly' to younger people. This is pleasing to God, and makes the youngsters feel loved and affirmed. How does this apply to you?

V23 Gaius: Hospitality is so important, and can bless many people. How can you open your home to people?

V23 Erastus: We need to pray that more politicians and influential people come to know Christ.

Time of Prayer

Pray into one or two things mentioned in Romans 16 that you want to do more of in your life. Ask God for strength and gifting, and then go and do it. Put it into practice today.

DAY 23

A NEW NATION

Theme: The Church

Text: 1 Peter 2v9-12

Pray

Over the next few days, we will be looking at what the Church is. Ask God to teach you all about his church today. The starting point to understanding the Church is to realise that God has always wanted his own special race of people on earth....

Read 1 Peter 2v9-12

Then, use the following notes to help you chew on this spiritual food.

Verses 9-10: God has always wanted his own people:

At the beginning of the bible in Genesis 12, God chose Abraham to start the nation of Israel. All through the Old Testament, the Jews were God's special people. But then Jesus came to earth and, through his death, made a way for anyone, of any nationality, to be born again and become part of this new nation that Peter is writing about in these verses. There is now a new nationality of people on earth who are citizens of the kingdom of heaven! At the end of the bible in Revelation 21v3 it says that history will culminate when God gathers all his people into heaven, and have a wonderful time for eternity being surrounded by his own special nation.

Verses 11-12: This people lives differently

We are described as aliens or foreigners who don't actually belong here. We are travelers. Heaven is really our home. So, we live different! We don't get so attached to systems and things on earth because we are just passing through. Imagine a Russian living in Zimbabwe – he would stand out. His values and speech and manner would be Russian, not Zimbabwean. People would say to him things like "I can tell you are different. What nation are you part of?"

Apply

Let us live lives of such good deeds that people would ask us similar questions so we can invite them to join the New Nation of God.

Time of Prayer

Worship God for his ability to pluck sinners like us out of earthly nations and form us into his own holy nation. Pray that today you would live like an alien for God's glory.

DAY 24

LOCAL CHURCH FAMILIES

Theme: The Church

Text: Acts 2v37-47

Pray

Start by thanking God that you are part of God's own special people. Thank him that he is your Father.

Yesterday we saw how God has created a new people group on earth. We are God's worldwide family. Although we live in different nations and may hold earthly passports, actually our citizenship is in heaven. Today we will see how this worldwide family is expressed through many, many smaller local church families. My family name is Smyth, and we are spread across the globe. Sadly, we are never able to be all together in one place. It *is* a worldwide family, but doesn't *feel* much like a family! But what makes family meaningful is that I am a part of the *local* Smyth family. I live with my wife and three kids in the same house.

Read Acts 2v37-47

The problem

Amidst all the excitement of that day in Acts 2 when 3000 new Christian 'babies' were born, I suspect that Peter and his friends had a bit of a panic attack about how they would look after 3000 brand new babies! How could they ensure that all these brand new converts would develop into mature Christian men and women? How could they care for them all? How could intimacy and true friendship be expressed through such a large crowd? How could they mobilize them into a soul-winning community? Help! It is just too big!

The answer

Verse 41 says the new converts were '**added** to their number that day'. God's plan is that every new Christian is not only saved by the Lord, but also that they are **added** to a Christian family. These families are called **churches**. From this moment in Acts 2 onwards through history, the progression of Christianity has been the steady planting of local churches. It started in Jerusalem, and spread out from there.

Apply

Whilst it is right to enjoy a meaningful personal walk with Jesus, we are not designed to have a private faith – God wants us to be part of a church and enjoy all the privileges and responsibilities of being part of the People of God. Are you part of a church? Are you just attending or are you meaningfully involved?

Over the coming days we will be looking at some of different analogies that the bible uses to explain what a local church is including a family, an army, and a body. The common truth expressed through each analogy is that we are to live together in community, meaningfully involved in each others' lives, and presenting a powerful combined witness to the world for Jesus!

Time of Prayer

Thank God for your local church. Pray for the leaders and people of your church.

DAY 25

WHAT A FAMILY!

Theme: The Church

Text: 1 Thessalonians 2v6-12

Pray

Today we will be looking at a local church being a family. As you pray, allow the Holy Spirit to bring to your mind the different qualities that a father has, and thank God for each of them that he perfectly demonstrates towards you.

Read 1 Thessalonians 2v6-12

Verse 8: What two things do people in a church share with each other? and Church life is not supposed to be merely sermons about the gospel – it is also about people sharing their lives with each other.

Verse 11: Do you think this verse speaks of a ‘family feel’ in church?
.....

Verse 12: What things does Paul say that we should do to our church brothers and sisters?
.....

1 Peter 2v2 describes a new Christian as a “**new born baby**”. The two main things a baby needs is milk and a family. As a Christian you will always need a church family, but probably never as badly as when you are a new baby Christian. Babies desperately need the influence and protection of people who love them. Babies can’t drink milk by themselves, and have to depend on others for their feeding. This is why your involvement with a local church is critical to your growth. You need to rely on those who are more mature to feed you. They don’t expect you to know it all or be perfect - no baby is, and in fact no adult is. You are allowed to make mistakes and no one will smack you. Your new family is patient and caring. Isn’t it wonderful to have so many new brothers and sisters.

No matter how large or small, a local church should feel and behave like a family. Because we are a family we go out of our way to ensure that everyone **feels ‘at home’** and accepted and loved. We are patient and persevering with one another. We care for and protect one another.

Take a quick look at these two passages that show more of the family nature of church life. See Acts 2v37-47 and Acts 4v32-37.

Apply

Are you part of a vibrant, loving church family? Are you part of Small Group in the church where you can enjoy a true sense of family?

Time of Prayer

After praying for people and situations that you would like to, spend some time asking God to develop the family atmosphere in your church. Ask him to help you put 1 Thessalonians 2v12 into practice.

DAY 26

WHAT AN ARMY!

Theme: The Church

Text: Matthew 28v1-20

Pray

Today we will be looking at a local church being an army. Start by saluting our General Jesus through worship.

Read Matthew 28v1-20

In these verses, Matthew records how Jesus instructs those who follow him to “Go into all the world and make disciples”. These verses are what we call ‘The Great Commission’ because it is here that we are given our **MISSION**. There is a great deal of ‘military talk’ in the New Testament including references to “fighting the good fight of faith” and to wearing the “armour of God” and to being “good soldiers of Christ Jesus”. If we were just a family we would be very good at caring for each other but not very good at winning the lost to Christ. If we were just an army then we would be very organized, efficient and courageous but we might not be very loving! We must be both.

Apply

Do you think your church is more of an army or a family? What things could you do to help strengthen the lacking element?

.....

Leadership: just as an army has leaders, so does your Church. Are you obeying them and getting behind the vision of the church? Are you playing your part?

Don’t fight a solo battle: King David was fond of describing Christians as ‘trees’. In Psalm 92v13 he explains that each tree should be planted “in the house of the Lord”, as opposed to being planted all by themselves out in the desert somewhere! We are designed to grow in “forests” and fight along side other Christians. David goes on to say that Christians growing together will be “majestic and stable and upright and durable and useful and fruitful” (Amplified translation). That’s the kind of Soldier of Christ that I want to be!

Time of Prayer

Pray for courage to fight the good fight of faith today! Pray that God would develop the military nature of your church.

DAY 27

WHAT A BODY!

Theme: The Church

Text: Romans 12v1-8

Pray

Today we will be looking at a local church being a body. After worshipping the Head of the Body, ask him to give you understanding today about the church as a body.

Read Romans 12v1-8

Because you are already part of God's world-wide body, you may wonder why you need to also be part of a local church body. In verse 5 and verse 6 of this passage, Paul gives two reasons why we should be actively involved in a local church body. Write them down:

.....
Did you get them? Firstly, Paul says that we don't only belong to God, but we also belong to each other. We have responsibilities to each other. It is true that God relates to you as a precious individual, but you are part of his people, his body, his family, his army – The Church! God never intended us to be lonely, ineffective individuals who serve him solo. No! It is together that we can be an effective witness to the world for Christ!

Secondly, in verse 6, Paul says we have different gifts that we must use. Not everyone has every gift, but together we have all the gifts that make us a functioning and healthy body.

Now read 1 Corinthians 12v12-27: Although Jesus is no longer physically on the earth, **we are**. And we are His body. This means that God is present in the earth, and speaks and acts, through us. This body has many different parts that, whilst are all equally important, play different roles. You may not be a very good mouth, but you may be an excellent ear. You may be a solid 'spine' who is rarely in the limelight but who is always an anchor for others. Even as a new member of the body, make it your aim to get playing your part and helping out with the responsibilities in your Home Cell and church as soon as possible. You have so much to give. Get giving.

Charles Colson said: *"How many times have you heard people say, 'Let's go to church'? First century believers didn't say 'We're going to church.' They said, 'We are the church.' The church of Jesus Christ is us! Don't speak of it as a building. Jesus never did."*

Time of Prayer

Pray for your church to be a body with every member playing their part.

DAY 28

STAY HOT TOGETHER

Theme: The Church

Text: Hebrews 10v19-25

Pray

Worship Jesus! Thank him! Ask him to open your eyes to new things in his Word today.

Read Hebrews 10v19-25

Read it nice and slow. Don't rush onto the following notes but rather allow God to speak to you through what you read.

Verses 19-22: These verses refer to how in the Old Testament times, only a select few high priests could draw close to God. But through Christ's death on the cross by which we are washed from our sin, now each of us can draw close to God. Isn't it wonderful?

Verse 24: Take time now to consider how you could do something to 'spur' fellow Christians around you to 'love and good works'. A gift? A phone call? A word of encouragement? Visiting them? Inviting them to your house? Resolve to "spur" at least one of them on today in some way.

Verse 25: The command is very clear – that we should make a habit of meeting together regularly as Christians. Most Christians find that church on Sunday, coupled with a small group meeting during the week seems to work well.

Apply

Have you ever watched a burning log when it rolls out of the fire? It loses its glow pretty fast. Are you involved in your church in a meaningful way? Are you regular in attendance, or have you rolled out of the fire and lost your glow? Resolve to get back into the fire!

Time of Prayer

Spend some time now praying for your friends in your small group and church. If you need some ideas of what to pray, take some tips from Paul's prayer for the Colossian Christians found in Colossians 1v9-12.

DAY 29

ALL ONE IN JESUS CHRIST

Theme: The Church

Text: Ephesians 2v19-22

Pray

Find a Psalm that starts with a few verses of praise, and use that to help you worship Jesus.

This is our last day of the series on the Church. Today, we will look at the wonderful truth that all Christians are ONE in Christ Jesus.

Read Ephesians 2v19-22

Read it nice and slow. Think about what it is saying.

Also read Galatians 3v26-29

What amazing verses! The extraordinary thing about the church is that we have Jesus in common. Only that can bring true harmony between people of different ages, races and cultures. In fact, cross-culture is meant to be one of the characteristics of the church that will amaze the world.

Apply

How tolerant are you of people in your church of different ages and classes and races? Are you demonstrating this glorious truth that we are all one in Christ Jesus? What can you do to understand people in the church who are different to you?

Time of Prayer

Pray into these things, for both yourself and your church.

DAY 30

FULL STEAM AHEAD

Theme: Reading the Bible

Text: 2 Timothy 3v14-17

Pray

Thank God for the times that you have enjoyed with him each day over the last 30 days. Ask again that he would speak to you again today.

Read 2 Timothy 3v14-17

What power the bible has to shape us and make us effective for Jesus!

Verse 14: Now that these bible notes are finished you must “*continue in what you have learned and become convinced of*”. But don’t panic! It is easy to start worrying whether you will be able to keep up your daily joy of meeting with Jesus. But remember that God will never stop loving you whether you meet with him daily, or never again! Daily prayer and bible reading will never impress God – through Jesus, you impress him already! But, God will give you strength to be disciplined, because he knows you need to get to know him better, and he loves spending time with you also.

Now that these notes have finished, you have 2 options:

Option 1: Get more bible notes

You can acquire more bible reading notes from a Christian bookshop, or through your church. There are several different types of bible notes available that you can choose from. The advantage of bible notes is that they suggest passages for each day, and offer helpful comments to help you draw the meaning out of the text. Their disadvantage is that they can make you lazy. If you are not careful, you may find that you are feeding off the notes more than the bible!

Option 2: Read on your own

These Bible reading notes have been geared to get you going in the daily delight and skill of reading God’s Word. They have been structured to help ***you get started*** in feeding on God’s word for yourself. In summary, a helpful structure is to:

Pray: start with some prayers of worship.

Read: read the passage and see what verses or points ‘jump out at you’.

Apply: then apply what you have read to your daily life.

Time of Prayer: then pray these things into your life, pray for the day ahead, and pray for other people and situations.