

GodTime

Monday

READ: Luke 1:26-38

REFLECT: Mary's future had been radically altered with the angelic message. Whatever her dreams were for her life, this certainly wasn't it! However, God had something better. Because of God's promise and nearness, Mary was able to surrender to his will, trusting that his promises were better than anything she could have dreamed.

RESPOND: What has been your response when unexpected circumstances altered your path? As a result, are you now closer or further from an awareness of God's presence?

Tuesday

READ: Psalm 22:1-10

REFLECT: David was in a difficult situation and couldn't see a way out. As he cried out to God, he was frustrated with God's silence. However, David's perspective shifts to God's character. Once David began to pray in this way, he experienced a turning point in his lament. His eyes began to shift from his problems to his God.

RESPOND: Think back to the turning points in your difficult times. Was there one where you decided to trust God with your future? What caused you to shift?

Wednesday

READ: Psalm 22:11-21

REFLECT: Because David saw his circumstances through the lens of God's character, he was able to lean into his lament by making bold requests of God. In every single one of his requests, he called upon God to act on his behalf. However, David's requests weren't only confessions of need, they also revealed what he believed about God.

RESPOND: What are some bold requests you want to make to God? Write them down and pray them to him. Trust in his character to answer them according to his wisdom.

Thursday

READ: Psalm 86:11; Psalm 90:12; Psalm 143:10

REFLECT: Many times we are so desperate to get out of difficult situations, we fail to see what God wants us to learn in them. When we trust in God's timing to respond, we are also trusting him not to remove us too early from our trials. He may want us to learn something and we will not be able to do so if he removes our difficulties from us too soon.

RESPOND: Spend time with God and ask him to teach you. Then look for how he may be teaching you in whatever you are going through.

Friday

READ: Hebrews 4:15-16

REFLECT: We do not have to fear when we approach God with our bold requests. When we make bold requests we do not do so flippantly. We make bold requests out of obedience to him. He tells us to come to him and make these bold requests!

RESPOND: Thank God for his grace that allows you to approach him with bold requests. Then, again, make your bold requests to God!