

GodTime

Monday

READ: Isaiah 9:1-7

REFLECT: God promised his people that they would not be in darkness forever. Though they may have felt lost and hopeless God wanted them to know of the certain hope they had in the Child who would be their king. No matter how dark it is, we can have confidence that God will fulfill the promises he has made to us.

RESPOND: Reflect on the promises of God that you may have lost confidence in. Look up Scripture passages that remind you of God's faithfulness and spend time praising him.

Tuesday

READ: Psalm 77:1-9

REFLECT: The psalmist feels as though God has forgotten and even rejected him. When we go through difficult seasons, we can feel the same way. Rather than shaming ourselves or growing in bitterness toward God, expressing our feelings through lament is how we can move along the pathway from pain to trust.

RESPOND: How honest are you with God? Spend time with him and voice your feelings to him. Ask him to help you make sense of why you feel the way you do today.

Wednesday

READ: Psalm 77:10-20

REFLECT: After voicing his feelings, the psalmist reflects on truth as expressed through God's character. He realizes his emotions can be deceptive and he begins to cling to the truth of who he knows God to be. In fact, he begins to believe again that God's presence is with him just as it was with Israel as they crossed the Red Sea.

RESPOND: Do your emotions or God's truth direct your steps? Reflect on the decisions you've made in the past month. Ask God to help you follow his truth in the future.

Thursday

READ: Luke 15:1-7

REFLECT: In this parable, Jesus emphasizes his mission on this earth — to go after those who are wayward and lost. Not only does this parable rebuke the Pharisees, it also reveals how much God cares about those who are lost. He drops everything to pursue them!

RESPOND: How has God pursued you when you have been lost? Praise him for his love and care for you.

Friday

READ: Lamentations 2:1; 3:22

REFLECT: These two verses seem to contradict each other. On one hand Jeremiah feels like God is angry toward his people and has rejected them. However, in 3:22, Jeremiah has come to the conclusion that it is God's love, not anger, that covers his people. Jeremiah has faith in God knowing his compassions are new every morning.

RESPOND: What keeps you from experiencing the mercies of God that he makes available to you every day?