



ontrack devotions

LUKE

OCTOBER 2024

MONTHLY PRAYER SHEET

"...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16

Who I Will Reach	How I Will Do It	How It Went

Other Requests	Date Answered	How It Was Answered

MONTHLY COMMITMENT SHEET

Name: _____

This sheet is designed to help you make personal commitments each month that will **help you grow in your walk with God**. Fill it out by determining

1. What will push you
2. What you think you can achieve

If you need help filling out your commitments, seek out someone you trust who can help you. Share your commitments with those who will help keep you accountable.

Personal Devotions:

How did I do with my commitment last month? _____

I will commit to read the OnTrack Bible passage and devotional thought _____ day(s) each week this month.

Church Attendance:

How did I do last month with my attendance? _____

I will attend church _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend small group _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend _____ time(s) this month.

(List any other activities you will participate in this month—Bible study, church events, etc.)

Bible Memory:

How did I do with Bible memory last month? _____

I will memorize _____ verse(s) this month.

Outreach:

How did I do last month with sharing Jesus? _____

I will share Jesus with _____ this month.

I will serve my local church this month by _____

As you begin reading the book of Luke, what are you hoping to learn? How do you want to be different after having read it? Luke began the book by explaining why he wrote it. Although there were others who had written about these same events, Luke wrote his own account to Theophilus. Luke tells us that he had researched and investigated everything that took place in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and wanted to record it for this man. Why? So that Theophilus could be certain of what he had been taught. In other words, this book was written so that we can be confident it is true. It is exciting to discover that we can gain greater certainty and confidence in what we believe. It is so easy to read the Bible and wonder if it really happened. As you read through it this month, ask God to give you an even greater certainty that what you are reading is true.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

LUKE 1

How do you respond to the truth of God's Word? When God speaks to you, what is your response? Hopefully, it is exactly like Mary's in today's reading. An angel came to her and gave her some incredible news—news that had major implications. She was going to have a baby, and yet, she was a virgin. That baby was going to be conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. This was not going to be just any baby, this child was to be the long awaited Messiah. She must have been overwhelmed. "Why me? What will Joseph say? People will never believe my story. How can this possibly be true?" These were questions she must have asked herself. But the Bible tells us something amazing about Mary. According to verse 45, she believed what the Lord had told her. What great faith! Could that be said of you? Do you believe that what God has said to you through the Bible and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life? How great is your faith?

SAY WHAT?

What are you facing that seems impossible?

SO WHAT?

What has God said about it?

NOW WHAT?

What should your response be to the situation?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING

LUKE 1

When was the last time you were really discouraged and, just when you were about to give up, God brought someone into your life to encourage you? If you can think of an example, then you can identify with Joseph and Mary in today's reading. God had asked them to do something extremely difficult. Mary was pregnant and Joseph was not the father. Then, as she was about to give birth, they were required, along with everyone else, to register at their hometown. Mary and Joseph left for Bethlehem in order to register. There, all alone, Mary gave birth to a son. It must have been an incredible moment for them, but they were in a stable and alone. There were no family or friends to share their joy or tell them how cute their baby was. Not exactly what they each had envisioned for this moment. But God did not forget and He sent shepherds to see their baby. What could have been a difficult moment was suddenly turned into joy as they all shared it together. Likewise, no matter what you are going through or what God has asked you to do, He knows and has a plan. At the perfect moment, He will send whatever or whomever you need.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

LUKE 2



Is it ok to be in the military? What if you are called to war and have to kill another person? We find in today's reading information that will help us answer those questions. John the Baptist was preaching in the wilderness and hearts were softened. A group of tax collectors were there and asked John how they should respond to what he was saying. John answered them by telling them to only tax what they should. A group of soldiers were there also and asked what their response should be in light of what he was saying. Notice what John did not tell them. If being a soldier was wrong, it would seem that John would have used this opportunity to say so. If fighting a war was wrong, John should have said that being a soldier was fine as long as you did not kill in battle. He only told them not to extort money, accuse people falsely, and to be content with their pay. It would seem that being in the military, which may require you to fight in a war, was permitted. When seeking answers to hard questions, we must determine what God says by studying His Word. In it, we will always find answers.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

LUKE 3

What exactly was Satan trying to get Jesus to do in this chapter? Why would it have been wrong for Him to turn the stones into bread? Jesus had been alone for forty days and nights. During that time, He had gone without food. Obviously, He was very hungry. There is nothing wrong with eating. The problem was that God wanted Him to be hungry. Therefore, turning the rocks into bread would have been providing for Himself something that God did not want for Him at that time. Satan was tempting Him to distrust God's timing. How often are you tempted in this same way? You have the ability to get something you want, or need, or deserve so you go ahead and get it. The snag, however, is that God does not want you to have it at this time or He has another way to provide for you. Are you being tempted in this way now? God's timing and provisions are all we ever need. Trust His timing!

SAY WHAT?

In what situations do people find it difficult to trust in God's timing?

SO WHAT?

How have you responded in the past when you faced these situations?

NOW WHAT?

How can you follow Jesus' example when you're tempted to not wait on God?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING

LUKE 4

PROVERBS 22

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

How do you respond when God does an amazing work in your life? Have you ever responded the way Peter did in today's reading? Peter had been fishing all night and hadn't caught anything. Since he was a career fisherman, this must have been incredibly frustrating. Jesus told Peter to cast his nets on the other side of the boat. He was reluctant, but obeyed Jesus. Not thinking it would work, he cast the nets on the other side of the boat. The resulting catch threatened to break the nets! In fact, Peter had to signal for another boat to come help them pull the fish out of the water. The amount of fish was so astounding, both boats were full and in danger of sinking. Peter responded by falling at the feet of Jesus and declaring himself to be a sinful man. This work of God revealed how unworthy he was. When you see God for who He is, it also gives you a glimpse of who you are. When God does the amazing in your life, it should cause you to fall at His feet with humble gratitude. Is that your attitude as you see what God has done and is doing in your life? It ought to be.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

LUKE 5

When you are faced with a difficult decision, what do you do? Who is the first person that comes to mind that you should talk to? Hopefully, you respond as Jesus did in today's reading. Jesus was faced with a difficult task. He had to choose twelve disciples, who would eventually become apostles, from those who were following Him. The job that lay ahead for these men was great. They were going to be given the responsibility of taking the message of the Gospel to the world after Jesus left the earth. Obviously, this was a critical decision. What did Jesus do? He spent the night in prayer. He sought the wisdom of the Father. Today's reading tells us that after the night of prayer was past, He brought the disciples together, He picked twelve from among them to be designated as apostles. Is this how you make decisions? Do you spend time in prayer asking for the wisdom of God? When trouble occurs, do you run to your friends first, or do you run to your Heavenly Father first? We need to follow Jesus' example and spend time in prayer when we face any decision—big or small? What decision are you presently facing that you need to pray about?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

LUKE 6

Have you ever watched someone treat a gift they received, that they did not deserve, with little or no appreciation? If so, then you will understand the point Jesus was making in this chapter. Jesus was anointed by a woman, with a bad reputation, in the house of the Pharisee He was visiting. The Pharisee was disgusted and felt that Jesus should not have been gracious to this woman. Jesus told a story to illustrate an important point. The point He made is that those who have been forgiven much, love much. When we realize how much we have been forgiven, we respond with great love. Jesus had forgiven this woman of her sins and her obvious response was gratitude and great love for Him. Too often, people lose sight of how great salvation is. We must never lose sight of the great things God has done for us. We need to be filled with love and wonder for God as we reflect on His amazing gift of salvation. There is no other response we can have.

SAY WHAT?

What do you think salvation is?

SO WHAT?

How has the forgiveness Jesus offers affected you?

NOW WHAT?

What should your response be as you reflect on what God has done for you?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what should your next step be?

EXTRA READING

LUKE 7

What is the meaning of verse 18 in today's reading? The answer is sobering. Jesus was making some important statements in this section. He told His listeners that the whole point of light is to put it in a place where people can see it and be impacted by it. So it is with spiritual light. Those who follow Jesus are a light in this dark world. That light is not intended to be hidden or kept under cover. In light of this, Jesus told them not to hide the truth they have been given. Those who keep it to themselves, or hide it, will not be given more. In fact, what they have will be taken away. Do you understand what this means? Your response to the truth you hear determines if you receive more. How are you responding to what you hear in church, from godly friends, and the Bible? Are you obeying it and sharing it?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
LUKE 8

How do you respond to someone who wants you or needs something from you when you want to be alone? How about when you want to be with someone else instead? How about when that interruption is a family member or the annoying person at work? Is it like the response Jesus gave in this account? Jesus sent his disciples out and they came back excited about what God had done through them. Jesus made a decision to go off where they could be alone and spend some private time together. However, the crowd had a different idea. They wanted to be with Him and followed Him. He responded by welcoming them. He sat down and began to teach them. He was not annoyed or harsh to make it obvious He wanted to be alone. He put His own desires aside for the needs of others. Often, we allow our own desires to cause us to react to people in an unkind way. This week, respond like Jesus when you are interrupted.

SAY WHAT?

Who are the people you struggle the most with when they interrupt you?

SO WHAT?

Why is it so hard for you to respond as Jesus did?

NOW WHAT?

In what ways can you improve in this area?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

EXTRA READING

LUKE 9

If you were to compile a list of qualities that make someone great, what would be on your list? How does your list compare to what Jesus said in verses 46-48 of this chapter? Jesus tells us that one quality that certainly needs to be on our list is concern for others. It is also important who we are caring for. We often care for those who will care back. We do not usually have a problem reaching out to the popular people or to those who will give us recognition or repayment. In this account, Jesus said that if you want to be great in His kingdom, you must demonstrate concern to all people—concern for children, the poor, the drug addict, the girl considering an abortion, your neighbor, your brother, your employee. Based on this measuring stick, how great are you? Will you be one of the greatest in the kingdom or one of the least? How can you show true greatness today? Who do you need to defend, stand up for, and protect today?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

LUKE 9

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

Who are the people, in verse 22, that the Son has chosen? The answer is awesome! Jesus was speaking with His disciples and they were rejoicing in the fact that God had demonstrated great power in their lives. Jesus ends this discussion with them by sharing something amazing about salvation. Jesus explains to them that we cannot know the Father or our need to accept Jesus as Savior unless God reveals it to us. All who have been saved are chosen people. It should thrill us to know that God has revealed His truth to us so that we can accept His salvation. Without Him making it known to us, we would never be able to receive eternal life. When we do, we can see the miraculous work in our lives. How great is the knowledge of our salvation! Have you accepted Jesus as your Savior? Are you following Him?

SAY WHAT?

What do people tend to see as greater than salvation?

SO WHAT?

Why do those things seem better than salvation?

NOW WHAT?

In what ways does your life reflect how you see salvation?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what can you do to demonstrate the greatness of salvation?

EXTRA READING

LUKE 10

Have you ever thought that a portion of the Bible contradicted another religion's teaching? What you read makes it hard for you to understand how someone could believe something so different? Today's chapter is an example of that. In verse 27, we find a woman who was so moved by what Jesus said that she called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth." Some believe this passage communicates that Mary is blessed and should be worshiped. They believe that she has supernatural power and a special influence over Jesus. Jesus' response contradicts that position. He responded to the woman by saying, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it." Mary was privileged to be Jesus' mother, but she was human just like us. Jesus alone is to be worshiped and adored.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

LUKE 11

How do you determine if someone is successful in life? One answer people often give is found in today's reading—possessions. Jesus shared a parable to help them see that success is not determined by your possessions. He spoke of a man who had accumulated great wealth and stored it up for the future. He had enough money to buy a big house, a nice camel, and nice clothes. He decided to take life easy since he had so much money. In his good fortune, he neglected to consider God. He did not think about being generous with the great wealth that God gave him. He didn't give to the poor, hungry, and needy in his community. He used his money to make his own life easy and comfortable. This man faced the judgment of God because he was not sharing his wealth. How generous are you with your money? Do you spend it all on yourself? Do you consider the needs of others?

SAY WHAT?

How have you recently spent money for yourself?

SO WHAT?

In what ways have you recently been generous with your money?

NOW WHAT?

What do these two examples tell you about how you use your money?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING

LUKE 12

Is all sickness in our lives due to an evil spirit? Could all sickness be done away with if we just cast out the demon that causes it? Jesus came across a woman who was crippled. She had been that way for 18 years. She was bent over and unable to straighten up. Jesus saw her and called her to Him so that He might heal her. Verse 11 tells us that the cause of her infirmity was the result of an evil spirit. If all illness were the result of an evil spirit, it would not have been necessary for Jesus to specifically identify this illness as being from an evil spirit. In fact, some illness is from God. This woman had no idea the reason for her illness but, when Jesus healed her, she began to praise Him. All she knew was that God had done a miracle for her. To assume that all negative circumstances in our lives are due to evil spirits, or that God would not want us to face illness, is wrong. We sometimes give Satan and his demons too much credit. When God does a work, regardless of the cause, we need to praise Him. All that happens in our lives, the good things and the hardships, are to make us more like Jesus.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

LUKE 13

Why are we to consider the cost before we follow Jesus? A close examination of this text will give us one reason. The king will examine the enemy to see if he can be successful in a war against him. The consideration given was not to see if he would go to war, but to see if he had what he needed to succeed. He considered the cost so that he would know what was needed in order to win. We, likewise, should not consider the cost to see if we want to follow Jesus. We consider the cost so we know what it will take to succeed. We have no option. We evaluate in order to ensure victory. It takes 100% commitment to follow Jesus. We must consider the cost so we are not surprised when hardships come.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
LUKE 14

How do you feel when someone sins and there seem to be no real consequences in their life for what they have done? Do you think that they should suffer or conclude that it is unfair if they appear to be getting away with their sin? That is how the older brother felt in today's chapter. One brother left and walked away from his family. He threw his money away and lived a life of sin. He then realized the error of his way and decided to go home. His father, who had been watching for him, saw him coming and was overjoyed. He threw a big party to welcome him home. The older brother, who had honored his father, was envious and felt that his sinning brother should not be treated so kindly. We can sometimes act like the older brother. We are reluctant to forgive right away, and we struggle when others forgive so easily. Could God be using this passage to rebuke you? Are you behaving like this older brother toward someone you need to forgive? What can you do to be more like the father and not the older brother?

SAY WHAT?

Why is it so easy to react the same way the older brother did?

SO WHAT?

In what ways have you reacted towards others without love and/or forgiveness?

NOW WHAT?

How can you improve your response in this area?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING

LUKE 15

PROVERBS 24

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

What was so remarkable about the manager's actions in the parable of the unjust servant? It seems as if what he had done was dishonest and wrong. Why would God seemingly commend him for his actions? Because his actions were based on the future. He made choices based on what would impact his future in a positive way. This man's life was about to change. He knew he needed to be prepared in case he lost his job. He may need the assistance of those who owed him money. They would help if he was kind to them. He cut their bills in half so that they would want to help him out in his time of need. Before this crisis, he lived only for the present. He did not care about the future. The point Jesus made was that we too ought to live our lives with the future in mind. Who we are kind to, who we spend time with, and how we handle our money will impact our future. In what way does your view of the future impact how you behave today? Don't just live for today. Make sure you are prepared for what may come tomorrow. Are you ready?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

LUKE 16



What response do you have when something you have done, that goes beyond the call of duty, is not acknowledged? You may have made a sacrifice for someone or taken responsibility for a job and no one noticed enough to thank you. How do you respond when God doesn't seem to notice and reward you? If you have typically responded poorly to these kinds of situations, this passage must have been a rebuke to you. In verses 7-10, Jesus used the illustration of a worker to speak to us about our own attitudes. He said that if a worker came in after a hard day in the field, wouldn't his boss expect him to finish his work day? Wouldn't he also be expected to do it without recognition? This is his job, after all. We should see our service to others in this same way. We are to be gracious people, knowing we have much more than we deserve. We should not look for or expect to be thanked and appreciated for what we do. The only thanks we should need is knowing God knows. Does this describe your attitude? What should change so that it reflects how thankful you are?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

LUKE 17

What was Jesus' purpose for telling the story He did in today's reading? How does it accomplish the goal stated in verse 1? Jesus told a parable about a judge who did not obey God. His actions were not determined by what God wanted or desired. A woman came to him again and again seeking justice against her adversary, but the judge refused to help her. Being persistent, she continued to come and ask. Finally, the judge granted her request, not because he wanted to see justice done, or because he wanted to help her, but because he was tired of her asking. He did it to get her off his back. Jesus' point is that if a judge administers justice due to someone's persistence, how much more will God, who always responds out of love, hear our prayers. God does not answer our requests because of unrelenting pleas, but out of love and concern for what is best. In light of that, He does not want us to just give up and stop asking. Have you grown discouraged in your prayers? Do not give up!

SAY WHAT?

What requests have you made to God that He doesn't seem to be hearing?

SO WHAT?

Why do you think God does not seem to be answering?

NOW WHAT?

What can you learn from today's reading to help you not give up?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING

LUKE 18

How do you feel when you spend time with hurting people? What thoughts go through your mind? Hopefully, you feel like Jesus does in this passage. Jesus begins today's reading by letting us know that He was passing through Jericho. On His way through, He stopped and spent time with a tax collector named Zacchæus. As a result of the time Jesus spent with him, he started to follow Jesus. Towards the end of the chapter, we see that Jesus revealed His true heart towards not only Zacchæus, but all the people of Jericho. The Bible tells us He looked over the city and wept. He wept because He knew what salvation would bring them, and yet they rejected Him, choosing their sin and its consequences. He knew that only pain and heartache awaited those who rejected Him. Is that how you feel about people? When is the last time you wept over someone? We often become frustrated with them instead of burdened for them. Maybe it is time you wept for those around you who are hurting.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

LUKE 19

What message did Jesus communicate through the parable of the tenants? In this parable, a man owned a vineyard and allowed people to rent it. The farmer sent servants to collect his rent and the tenants rejected them. Finally, the farmer sent his son to collect the rent. Throughout history, God sent His servants to show us our need for a Savior. Mankind rejected those servants, so God sent His Son. We rejected Him also and nailed Him to a cross. Eventually, the farmer took the offer away and gave it to others. Likewise, God has taken His offer of salvation from those who have rejected it and given it to others. How do you view yourself compared to those in the parable? Do you live as if your life is from God? Are you rejecting Jesus' call to follow Him? Don't be like the tenants who lived selfish, ungrateful lives. If you follow Jesus, are you living your life in gratitude for all He's done for you?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

LUKE 20

In this chapter, Jesus let the disciples know that they would face opposition and persecution in their future. They would be brought before the authorities to give an account for what they preached. As a result, they would have an opportunity to share the message of Jesus with those men. As they looked ahead to these events, they must have felt fear and maybe even terror. What would they say? How would they respond? Jesus then gave them a startling command. They were told to make up their mind beforehand not to worry about how to defend themselves. We would think that Jesus would want them to have a plan so they were prepared. Not so. Jesus was going to give them the words to say when they needed them. His expectation for them was to completely trust Him and not be dependent on how prepared they were. In the same way, when difficulty comes, He will be there for you. Do you worry about what will happen if you do what is right? Do you struggle to stand up for what is right due to fear? How can this passage help you have greater courage?

SAY WHAT?

What do you think might happen if you took a stand for what is right?

SO WHAT?

Why does that worry you?

NOW WHAT?

How can you apply the lesson from this passage to your life this week?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING
LUKE 21

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

In today's reading, Jesus gives some encouraging words to us about our sin. It is also important to keep this truth in mind when those around us sin. It is true that when we sin and turn back to God, He will restore us. Jesus had a conversation with Peter in the upper room and He warned Peter that he would sin. He wanted Peter to know ahead of time that even though he was going to sin, he would repent and be useful again. This is even more amazing because Jesus told Peter this before he denied Him. How those words must have encouraged him when he did sin. He learned that God is the God of second chances. We need these words of encouragement today. We will all sin. We must be assured that when we confess sin and turn back to God, He will forgive us and make us useful again. Peter sinned miserably, but God desired to still use him. His sin did not mean he couldn't follow Jesus anymore. Let these words encourage your heart. Use them to encourage others. God is waiting to forgive us and use us again.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

LUKE 22

When do you find it the most difficult to see the needs of others and reach out to them? Usually it is when you are hurting yourself. Today's reading speaks to that very situation. Jesus was in the midst of excruciating pain and anguish. He heard false accusations against Him. He watched His disciples forsake Him and flee. These were the men who vowed to stand by Him in His hour of need. He had been beaten and tortured. He had a crown of thorns placed on His head. Now, He was on the road to Calvary where He was going to die on the cross for all sins. As He carried the cross, He was followed by a group of people wailing and mourning. In the midst of His own pain, He spoke to them. He told them that they should not cry for Him but for themselves. Their pain would be greater because of what the people had done that day. Jesus heard and cared about others during His own agony. Do you? Do you get so caught up in your own grief and sadness that you fail to see that others are hurting as well? Do your burdens keep you from reaching out to others who might need comfort from you?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

LUKE 23

Why didn't the disciples on the road to Emmaus know that Jesus was right there with them? Could it be that they missed Jesus because they were too caught up in the events of their own lives to even notice that He was with them. They had followed Him and had seen the painful events of His crucifixion. It was on their minds and they were so consumed by those thoughts that they talk about it. They shared their grief and that the women said they had seen Him alive. Although they knew He was no longer in the tomb, they had not yet seen Jesus themselves. So consumed with the events in their own lives, they missed Jesus in their midst. This is often true of us today. We get so caught up in the events of our lives that we do not see Jesus. Our work consumes our thoughts and we miss His presence. Our circumstances weigh on us so much that we don't notice when Jesus comforts us. How easily discouraged we can be. Examine your life. Could this be true of you now? Can you see Jesus in the midst of your hurt?

SAY WHAT?

What kinds of things enter our lives that cause us to miss Jesus?

SO WHAT?

Why is it so easy for us to miss Jesus in difficult circumstances?

NOW WHAT?

How can you train yourself to look for Jesus in the midst of difficult times?

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment should you make in light of today's reading?

EXTRA READING
LUKE 24

As you come to the completion of this book, what have you learned? In what ways are you different because you read it? What have you learned about Jesus Christ? This book is filled with so many lessons. Why not take time today to record the impact this book has had in your life? Don't be a hearer of the Word only, but be a doer. What specific changes do you need to make? Use today's questions to help you think through what you have learned and how you can apply it to your life. Also, if you missed any days this month in your devotions, why not take this time today to go back and get caught up.

SAY WHAT?

Put into one sentence why you think this book was written.

SO WHAT?

If this book was not written, what would you have missed?

NOW WHAT?

How will what you have written impact your life and ministry?

THEN WHAT?

In light of what you read this month, what personal commitment should you make?

EXTRA READING
ANY MISSED PASSAGES



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BE CAREFUL, OR YOUR HEARTS
WILL BE WEIGHED DOWN WITH
DISSIPATION, DRUNKENNESS AND
THE ANXIETIES OF LIFE, AND THAT
DAY WILL CLOSE ON YOU
SUDDENLY **LIKE A TRAP.**
LUKE 21:34

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