



21 Days Quiet Time Series

Day 1

Gratitude

1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Hebrews 12:28-29, John 3:16-19

As we enter the holiday season, it is important to remain grateful and thankful for all the things and people God has put in our lives. Let us always remember those who are less fortunate than us, and keep them in our hearts and prayers. If we are in Christ we are a new creation and we should be very thankful for this. It is because of God that we can be changed people and live holy lives. Most importantly, during this Christmas season we should be thankful for the kingdom of God and Jesus Christ dying on the cross. Let us not forget his incredible gift to us.

CHALLENGE: Make a list of 25 things you are grateful for and share what is on your list with someone in your family.

Day 2

The Heart of a Servant

Philippians 2:3-8, Matthew 20:28, 1 Corinthians 10:24

To be a good servant you must love others more than yourself. This means putting the needs of others above your own. This takes humility and the heart to do anything for anyone regardless of how inconvenient it may be. We need to make ourselves nothing, just as Jesus did. This means realizing that we do not deserve anything, and understanding that anything we do have is a gift from God. Let's take Jesus' attitude and not expect to be served but to be the ones prepared to do the serving. We should always strive to seek what is best for those around us.

CHALLENGE: As you spend more time with your family over the holidays be mindful of their needs. Offer to help out and take initiative to serve those closest to you.

Day 3

Let Your Light Shine

Matthew 5:14-16, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, 1 John 2:15

Sometimes we forget just how important we are in God's plan for saving the world. But God specifically calls us to show the way for the lost and to come out and be separate from them. We are the light of the world! The only way we will save people is if they see our good deeds. That is why in every area of our lives we need to shine and be different.

CHALLENGE: Make a list of ways you would like to shine throughout the New Year. Be specific and ask God in prayer to help you in those areas of your life.

Day 4

The Lord is Faithful

Joshua 23:10, Philippians 4:13, Luke 1:37

“You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled, not one has failed.” Our God is a faithful God. He wants us to be victorious and will help us overcome anything when He becomes our sole source of strength. God will fight for you no matter what your battling against because all things are possible with God.

CHALLENGE: Reflect on your time as a disciple and all the ways God has fought for you and proven himself faithful. Say a prayer of thanks to Him.

Day 5

Spiritual Perspective

1 Peter 4:1-11, Titus 2:12, Philippians 3:19-21, 1 Peter 5:8-9

Jesus needs to be on our hearts at all times! He is the greatest source of motivation in our spiritual lives. Once we have him as our foundation, our minds will be focused on God and His plan. The more we suffer by denying ourselves everyday, the stronger Christians we will be and the temptations we endure will be easier to overcome. We must always be ready and put on the full armor of God because there is a spiritual battle being fought all around us.

CHALLENGE: What part of God’s armor do you need the most? Make a decision to pray about this throughout the day today.

Day 6

Prayer

1 Kings 3:7-15, 4:29-34, 2 Chronicles 1:11-12

King Solomon was known for his wisdom. In 1 kings the scriptures reveal that he had knowledge of a variety of subjects including plants, animals, human nature and God’s word. His wide range of knowledge did not just come with hard work, he prayed to God for the wisdom and the ability to discern between good and bad. Solomon prayed to God for the ability to rule his people. In the same way, we need to focus on the importance of praying for wisdom so that we can also set an example when the most difficult situations arise in our lives.

CHALLENGE: Write an in-depth prayer of the wisdom you want to grow in and how you want that wisdom to make you a stronger disciple.

Day 7

Don't Worry Be Happy

Matthew 6:25-34, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

We all have certain challenges in our lives. Verse 27 always brings us back to remember that by worrying we only waste time. Seeking first the kingdom does not mean that everything will magically start being perfect. It does mean that if we put God and the kingdom first, we have nothing to worry about and Jesus will fill in the gaps for whatever we lack.

CHALLENGE: Write down five things that you worry about the most and pray that God will help you put the kingdom above those concerns.

Day 8

Love

John 13:34-35, John 15:12-13, and 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

As we spend time with family during this holiday season, we will be able to have a tremendous impact. We can be known for many things, (religious, better organized, kinder, etc.), but above all we must be known for our love. What does it mean to lay down your life for your friends? What are some practical ways you can do this with your friends and family this week?

CHALLENGE: Make a list of attributes of Jesus' love and write down the ones you want to grow in.

Day 9

Joy

Hebrews 12:2, Philippians 2:1-5

In order to have joy, we must find out how to get it. This formula will produce joy.

Jesus

Others

Yourself

We should always look at Jesus' example. He knew what was ahead and yet remained focused on others. To have Jesus' joy, we must have Jesus' focus. To be a servant like Jesus, we must be focused on how much God has given to us. Think of all the encouragement you have received since becoming a Christian.

CHALLENGE: Share the Joy of Jesus with someone today.

Day 10

Self-Control

Galatians 5:22, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8, 1 Peter 1:13-16, 2 Peter 1:5

During this holiday season, it may be challenging to be in self control especially around those who know exactly how and when to push our buttons. The scriptures call us to be self controlled in every way-thought, deed and actions.

CHALLENGE: What area of your life do you need to be more self controlled? Create a plan of self control and share it with someone close to you.

Day 11

Kindness & Goodness

Genesis 50:15-21, Luke 10:30-37

In certain situations its easy to express kindness and goodness. When we look at the scripture in Genesis, we see Joseph's attitude toward his brothers, in spite of how they treated him. In Luke chapter 10, we also see how a man who was beat up and robbed was treated by those who passed him on the road. There was only one man who cared for his needs. Will you be that person this holiday season and care for the needs of someone who is less fortunate.

CHALLENGE: Go the extra mile with your friends and family this week.

Day 12

Taking Aim

Romans 2:6-7, 1Peter 1:8-9, John 17:1-3, 6-9, 20-26

Jesus tells us in His own words the very purpose for which HE came down to man-that He might give eternal life to those who would follow, that we might be able to know God and share in a relationship with Him. This must be our aim: to know God, to please and serve Him, to live in a right relationship with Him. Do you know what the prize is? Do you know when you receive it? It is not merely heaven. It is life, the abundant life that began at your conversion and will continue on into eternity. How sad to lose focus and vision for what God truly desires of us and for us. Let us not forget or lose sight of our real goal. It is not offering our service, sacrifice, or skills to God that is our ultimate goal, but it is to gain, enjoy and share a loving, eternal relationship with God himself.

CHALLENGE: Ask God to reveal anything in your life thats restricting and hurting your relationship with Him. Thank God and praise Him for His love. Thank Him that His true desire is to give you eternal life!

Day 13

Why Do I Feel This Way?

Luke 22:39-46, 1 Peter 2:21

Nothing can seem so permanent and yet change so rapidly as human emotions. As the holiday season approaches, we find ourselves faced with many different emotions. Often times we are unable to pinpoint just what we feel. At other times we do know what we feel, but we are unable to understand why we feel what we do. The holiday season triggers off emotions of sadness, loneliness, and general feelings of being down. Our past has much control on how we feel and how we deal with those feelings. Also, when we focus on ourself instead of others, we find a wellspring of emotions. Another important factor is the expectations we place on the holiday season, again focusing on self and what we want to get out of it.

The answer lies in Gethsemane. Jesus knew and recognized what He was about to face (before He faced it) and spent hours of prayer in preparation for it. The end result was His focus on others, not Himself.

CHALLENGE: Pray that God will help you get in touch with your feelings and identify them. Ask for God's help in dealing with those feelings like Jesus.

Day 14

Turning Distress into Devotion

Psalms 77:1-12, Psalm 78:70-72

There are times in our lives that we will feel distress and discouragement for various reasons and yet it is not God's will for us to stay in those situations. The Psalmist found himself in distress crying out to God, not finding the comfort he sought until he decided to remember how powerfully God had worked in the past. The Psalmist decided to change his attitude from grumbling "Woe is me" to praising God and meditating on His powerful deeds.

CHALLENGE: Remember and call to account the mighty deeds of God in your own life. In Psalm 78, David remembers that he once was in the sheep pen and how he was chosen by God to lead His people, turning his distress into devotion to God.

Day 15

Angels Long to Look into these Things

Hebrews 10: 1-22, 1 Peter 1:3-12

Praise be to God for Jesus! “We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all!” (Hebrews 10:10). Those living under the old testament law could not boast of such a blessing from God because they lived under the blood of animals, which when sacrificed, were only an annual reminder of sins and not a sacrifice that produced forgiveness (Hebrews 10:1-3). We however are not under the law but are called to be in a loving relationship with Him. Therefore, we are able to know His love for us and respond to this love. This love has cleansed our sin by Jesus’ blood that we may have confidence before God! What a wondrous salvation! Praise be to God for a salvation that even the angels long to look into.

CHALLENGE: Thank God for Jesus’ sacrifice that gives us salvation. Ask God to expand your understanding of this salvation so that you may be awed and thankful always for His mercy. Praise God for having forgiven all the sins of your past and continuing to forgive you as you walk in the light. Rejoice in your salvation!

Day 16

The Power of Joy

2 Corinthians 6:3-10, James 1: 2-4, 1 Peter 4:12-13, Hebrews 12

As sons and daughters of God, we can expect trials of all kinds. We can expect sorrows, disappointments and discouragement of many kinds. Yet joy is not subject to the circumstances we find ourselves in-it transcends them! Our joy overcomes these because of the expectation of the glory to come for those who are faithful, because we know that we are being made mature and complete, and because God is treating us as sons and daughters. Praise be to God that our trials are transforming us into an ever increasing likeness of Jesus our Savior!

CHALLENGE: Where has your joy level been recently? How can you obtain greater joy, one that overcomes every circumstance? Is your joy level an encouragement to others, does it overflow in expression? What can you do to express more joy?

Day 17

Good News of Great Joy

Luke 2: 8-20

Imagine being with the shepherds and seeing the angels exclaiming praises to God. Imagine the glory of the Lord shining around you! What an incredible experience, even greater than this though would be finding the little baby in the manger, just as the angles had said. This was the one that for generations, God's people had waited for. How awestruck the shepherds must have been. Their awe overflowed and moved them to share this good news of great joy with as many as they could find.

CHALLENGE: Ask God to fill you with the awe that the shepherds had when they heard the good news. Ask God to help you share the good news as enthusiastically as the shepherds did. Thank God for choosing you to hear this good news of great joy.

Day 18

Immanuel

Isaiah 7:14, Colossians 1:15-20, John 1:1-4, Acts 1:4-8

Immanuel-God with us! It is truly amazing to have had the Son of God Himself among us-the Creator of our lives and of the universe appearing as a man! God was with us fully embodied in Jesus. The image of the Father, sustainer of the universe, peacemaker, light of the world, King of all. Even further than these ways of seeing Jesus, today we are blessed to have His Spirit dwelling in us. Not only is God with us, but God is in us. Praise God for revealing Himself to us and dwelling inside of us.

CHALLENGE: Praise God for His love for you and for how He has shown that love to you through Jesus His Son. Ask God to help you to walk with Him throughout your day, focusing your thoughts and your heart on Him. Thank God for his Spirit within you, which works so powerfully.

Day 19

King of Kings and Lord of Lords

Luke 3:21-23, 4:1-13, Hebrews 2:14-18, 4:14-16, Revelation 19:11-16

Praise be to God for Jesus, our King, who overcame every temptation and who overcame Satan. We serve the winner above all winners, the King above all Kings! We fight an enemy that has already lost the war-although he still is inflicting heavy casualties. Jesus has even freed us from Satan's most potent weapon-death! Let us praise our King who is a sympathetic, merciful, and faithful high priest who is there for

us in every time of need. Jesus overcame Satan by faithfully adhering to the truth from the Father. Jesus shared our humanity to destroy death and free us from its grip.

CHALLENGE: Praise God for winning the war over Satan through Jesus! Ask God to help you gain the victory in a particularly challenging area of temptation. Thank God for freeing you from death's grip.

Day 20

Pressing on Toward the Goal

Philippians 3:1-4:1

As we approach the new year, we often hear talk of New Year's Resolutions. Take a moment and think over the changes you have made this year. While the world around us resolves to change the same things year after year we, as disciples set goals and accomplish change. Setting goals helps us to focus our minds on the spiritual and not the temporal. This spiritual mindset allows us the confidence before God to change our character and become what, in the past, seemed unattainable.

CHALLENGE: Praise God for the changes He has made in you this past year. Ask God to guide you as you set goals for the New Year. What changes do you want to accomplish this next year? Commit these to God and press on toward those goals.

Day 21

Victory in Jesus

2 Corinthians 2:14-3:6

As we end this quiet time series, the New Year has already begun. This choice is ours—we can grab hold of the victory or let this year pass in disappointment. In 2 Corinthians 2:14, we see that God already leads us triumphantly. The decision comes by allowing God to lead us or holding on to our own self will. It is God's desire that we be ever-changing and growing into the likeness of His Son. It is His will that the world be won. How will you let Him use you? Choose to press on toward the goal. When you fall down, get back up. Do not allow Satan to stop you. Do not believe his lies. Choose to believe God, the victory is yours for the taking.

CHALLENGE: Think about the promises we have in Christ. Think about who God is, how He worked in the lives of heroes of the faith. Believe that He will lead you triumphantly also.