

Jesus, The True Word

It's no wonder that Jesus said that all the scriptures written before his birth pointed to his coming and the fulfillment of God's will: in the book *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*, Josh McDowell notes that over 300 Old Testament prophecies about Jesus are fulfilled in the New Testament.

For example, did you know that 700 years before Jesus' birth the prophet Micah told us where Jesus would be born while Isaiah wrote details of how Jesus would die? And centuries before those prophets were even born, Moses wrote that in the end Jesus would win the victory for us over sin and death. You'll see those passages and others in the readings for this week. Let's explore the Old Testament to learn more about our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Monday – Finally Getting It

"The greatest obstacle to discovery is not ignorance -- it is the illusion of knowledge."

Daniel J. Boorstin, Librarian of Congress 1975-1987

1. Please read Luke 24:13-45, and put yourself into one of those conversations with Jesus. What thoughts would you have had; what emotions would you feel; what questions would you want to ask?
2. Now look at verses 25-27 and 44. Where can we turn to get greater understanding about Jesus?

Text Insight: The phrase "the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms" refers to the entire Old Testament.

3. We do not have Jesus in our homes physically, explaining the meaning of Bible verses to us. According to 1 Corinthians 2:11-12, who now guides us in understanding God's word? How does he do it?

Making it Personal: Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's word and all it proclaims about Jesus.

Tuesday – Teaching an Old Dog Something New

"It is always in season for old men to learn." Aeschylus, 6th-5th c. B.C. Greek playwright, *Agamemnon*

1. Please read John 3:1-15. Look closely at Nicodemus' first statement in verse 2. Why do you think Jesus responded the way he did?

Text Insight: The common people looked to the Pharisees as examples of how to live godly lives.

2. Compare Nicodemus' confusion in verses 4 and 9 with Proverbs 30:2-4. What clues are there in John 3 that show whether Nicodemus was ashamed of his ignorance or not?

Digging Deeper (optional): Read Proverbs 9:1-18. What encouragement is given to those seeking wisdom? What warnings are given to the foolish? How does Proverbs 9 encourage you to be more like Nicodemus in seeking God's truth?

Wednesday – Jesus in the Law of Moses

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1

1. Please read Proverbs 30:5-6 and Revelation 22:16-21. What do these verses say about looking somewhere other than the Bible for God's truth? What does this tell you about getting to know Jesus?
2. Genesis 3:15 is the Bible's earliest prophecy about Jesus. According to 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 and Colossians 2:13-15, how does it get fulfilled?

Digging Deeper (optional): Read Genesis 3:1-15 and compare Eve's comment in verse 3 with God's instruction in Genesis 2:16-17. How did Eve add to what God said? What motivates some people to add to the Bible?

Thursday – Jesus in the Prophets

"Atheism is a non-prophet organization." George Carlin, 20th c. American humorist

1. Please read Micah 5:2-5a along with Luke 2:4-7 & 21. What did Micah say about the child who would be born in Bethlehem? What does this tell you about Jesus?
2. Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12. What aspects of Jesus' life and work are revealed by Isaiah's prophecy?

Making it Personal: Give thanks to God for planning all along how he would save those who belong to him.

Friday – Jesus in the Psalms

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes." Marcel Proust, 19th-20th c. French writer

1. Please read Psalm 22:7-8 & 16-18 alongside Luke 23:32-39. What parallels do you find?
2. Compare Psalm 16:10 with Luke 24:1-12. Describe your feelings if you had been there to witness the fulfillment of that Old Testament prophecy.

Making it Personal: Would you have been more like the women who first came to the empty tomb, or like Peter? Ask God to guide you in your proper response to the truth about Jesus.

For the Weekend: Read Genesis 3:14-24 and Isaiah 52:13-53:12. How does Isaiah's prophecy address the problems Adam and Eve faced as a consequence of their original sin?