



DAILY DEVOTIONS

THE 5-ARROW™ BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What does this passage tell us about man?



What does this passage demand of me?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?

GENESIS 12:1-5

We all like to be in our comfort zone. The thought of branching out, taking risks, or making a big change is intimidating. Abram was called to leave his family, friends, and everything familiar to him in order to follow God. He couldn't obey God and stay in his comfort zone, and neither can we. Jesus challenges us to reach out to other people, go to other places, and trust Him with our future. That certainly isn't easy, but it will be worth it. When we live in faith—when we obey God even when it's hard—we walk in God's blessing.

HOW MIGHT GOD BE CALLING YOU OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE?

WHAT ARE THE FEARS AND BARRIERS THAT HOLD YOU BACK?

WHAT CAN YOU DO TODAY TO FOLLOW JESUS MORE BOLDLY?

GENESIS 15:1-6

WHAT WORRIES DO YOU HAVE ABOUT YOUR FUTURE?

WHAT ABOUT GOD'S CHARACTER MIGHT HELP YOU OVERCOME THOSE FEARS?

WHY DOES GOD'S WORD GIVE US HOPE EVEN WHEN OUR CIRCUMSTANCES FEEL HOPELESS?

Have you ever worried about the future? Abram was afraid that he would never have a son. But only a few verses later, he believed God (Gen. 15:6). How did he go from doubt to belief? It was a Holy God in his circumstances. That's how you overcome doubting. God said, "I am your shield" (Gen. 15:1) and later said, "Your offspring will be numerous" (Gen. 15:5). Abram trusted who God was and what God said. It is only when you trust the character and believe God's word that you will be able to overcome your fears and worries about the future.

GENESIS 15:7-21

A covenant is typically an agreement between two people where there will be consequences if either person breaks his or her promise. But in this covenant, God made the promises and took all responsibility. He was saying, "I promise to do this no matter what. If you fail, I will take the consequences myself." It was completely one-sided. That is what God has done for us in Jesus. We fail, but Jesus took all of the consequences for our sins so that we can possess the promises of God. How can you know God will come through? Jesus died in your place. It's the greatest evidence of the faithfulness of God you will ever find.

WHERE DO YOU LOOK WHEN YOU EXPERIENCE DOUBT AND UNCERTAINTY?

HOW DOES THE GOSPEL GIVE US CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S FAITHFULNESS?

HOW CAN JESUS' SACRIFICE MOTIVATE YOU TO OBEY AND TRUST GOD MORE?

GENESIS 17:1-11

HAVE YOU BEEN BAPTIZED?

IF NOT, IS THERE ANYTHING THAT IS HOLDING YOU BACK?

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO SHOW YOUR FAITH IN JESUS PUBLICLY?

The sign of the Abrahamic covenant was circumcision. A sign is like a uniform. It identifies what team you're on. In this case, the God you belong to. The sign of the new covenant is baptism. In the Old Testament, when you were born into Abraham's family, you received the sign of circumcision. Now, when you're born again into the family of God (through faith in Jesus), you receive baptism. Baptism shows that we belong to Jesus and are cleansed from our sin. His death and resurrection have made our adoption into God's family possible.

GENESIS 17:15-21

When God told Abraham that Sarah would have a son, Abraham laughed. Later, Sarah laughed at the thought of having a son in her old age as well. Our plans may seem impossible at times. You may even laugh in disbelief, thinking, "There's no way God could do that through me." But God can do anything through anyone He wants to use—even you! If we will believe and obey, God will go above and beyond all that we can think according to the power that works in us. (Eph. 3:20)

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU THINK GOD WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO USE YOU TO DO?

WHAT ARE THE THINGS THAT MAKE YOU DOUBT THAT GOD CAN USE YOU?

WHAT WOULD YOU WANT TO DO FOR GOD IF YOU KNEW HE WOULD GIVE YOU THE POWER TO DO IT?