

THE NEXT 40 DAYS

WEEK 6

DAY 1: READ ACTS 1:1-11

Jesus told the disciples to wait for the promise of the Father and was then lifted up into heaven. And then they waited for this promise of the Father. We can find ourselves asking “what do we do now?” when we can’t see Jesus clearly anymore, but Jesus’ command is much the same for us. Cling to the promise of the Father. His word has not failed yet and won’t start now, here, with you. Lean into the promised Holy Spirit, the living presence of the living, loving God. He has everything you need and provides all the tools, gifts and direction for the mission Jesus gave us. Cling to Him.

DAY 2: READ JOHN 14

We are not alone. Jesus did not leave His followers alone when He ascended to be with the Father. God has given us the Holy Spirit, the Helper, in the name of Jesus. Why does Jesus call the Holy Spirit the Helper? How does the Holy Spirit help us? How have you seen, felt or encountered the Holy Spirit helping you? Just like the disciples were probably afraid or troubled when Jesus was telling them He was going away to be with the Father soon, we might not understand God’s ways, but He has assured us ahead of time of His promises. In His actions, He has demonstrated how He keeps His promises. And while He prepares us ahead of time for what is to come, He also gives us the Holy Spirit to help us when the time arrives. Be encouraged, church.

DAY 3: READ JOHN 15

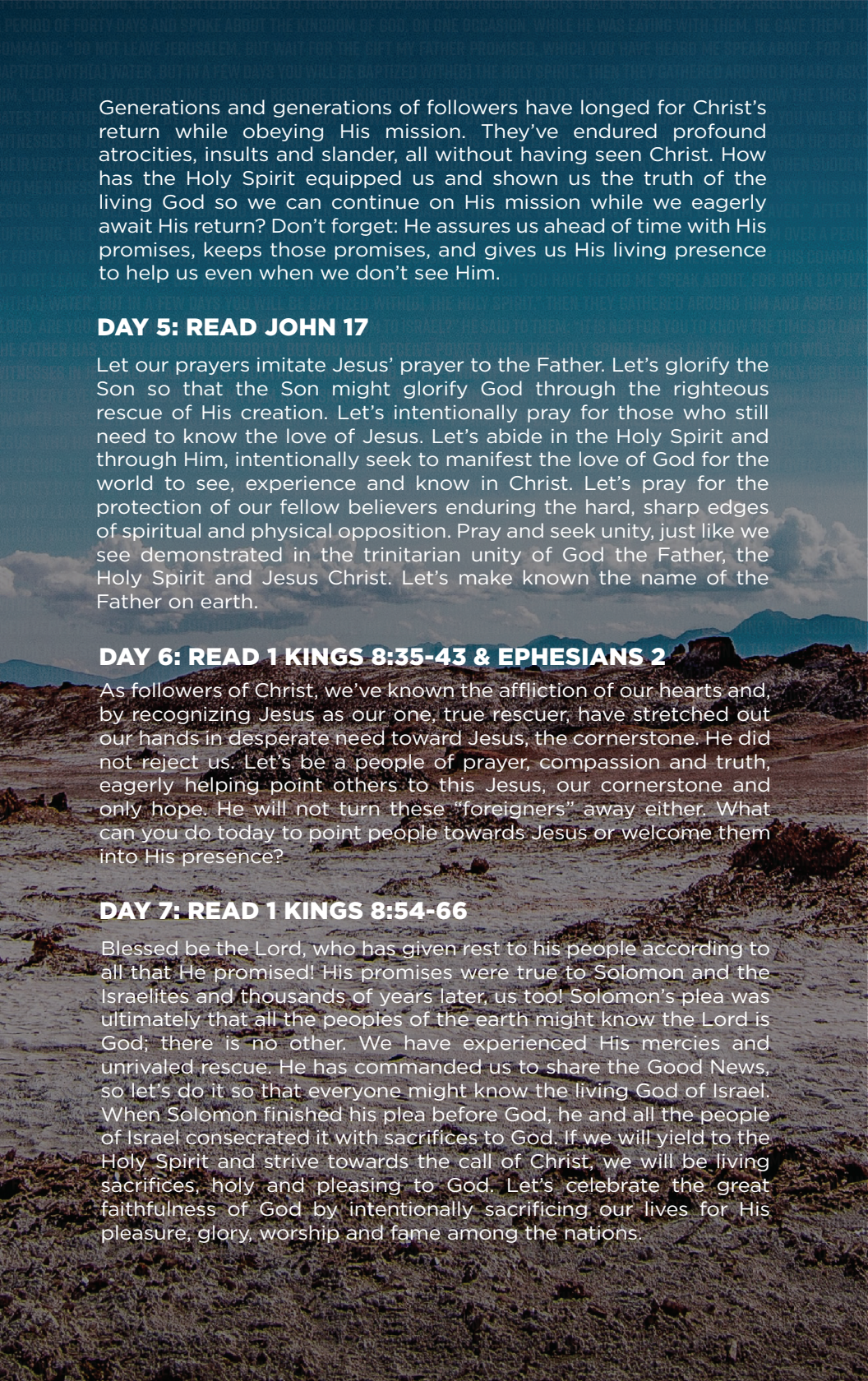
Remember yesterday’s question about the Holy Spirit being called the Helper? What does this passage help you understand about the Holy Spirit? Apart from Him, we can do nothing. What does it mean to abide in the Christ? Practically speaking, what can we do better, stop doing or do differently to more fully abide in Christ? Since Jesus has shown us what He is doing, we are no longer mindless servants. We have been appointed and assigned one mission: to bear witness about Christ to all people in His love!

DAY 4: READ JOHN 16

Over two thousand years have passed since Christ’s death, resurrection and ascension to be with the Father.

DAY 4 CONTINUED.

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Generations and generations of followers have longed for Christ's return while obeying His mission. They've endured profound atrocities, insults and slander, all without having seen Christ. How has the Holy Spirit equipped us and shown us the truth of the living God so we can continue on His mission while we eagerly await His return? Don't forget: He assures us ahead of time with His promises, keeps those promises, and gives us His living presence to help us even when we don't see Him.

DAY 5: READ JOHN 17

Let our prayers imitate Jesus' prayer to the Father. Let's glorify the Son so that the Son might glorify God through the righteous rescue of His creation. Let's intentionally pray for those who still need to know the love of Jesus. Let's abide in the Holy Spirit and through Him, intentionally seek to manifest the love of God for the world to see, experience and know in Christ. Let's pray for the protection of our fellow believers enduring the hard, sharp edges of spiritual and physical opposition. Pray and seek unity, just like we see demonstrated in the trinitarian unity of God the Father, the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ. Let's make known the name of the Father on earth.

DAY 6: READ 1 KINGS 8:35-43 & EPHESIANS 2

As followers of Christ, we've known the affliction of our hearts and, by recognizing Jesus as our one, true rescuer, have stretched out our hands in desperate need toward Jesus, the cornerstone. He did not reject us. Let's be a people of prayer, compassion and truth, eagerly helping point others to this Jesus, our cornerstone and only hope. He will not turn these "foreigners" away either. What can you do today to point people towards Jesus or welcome them into His presence?

DAY 7: READ 1 KINGS 8:54-66

Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to his people according to all that He promised! His promises were true to Solomon and the Israelites and thousands of years later, us too! Solomon's plea was ultimately that all the peoples of the earth might know the Lord is God; there is no other. We have experienced His mercies and unrivaled rescue. He has commanded us to share the Good News, so let's do it so that everyone might know the living God of Israel. When Solomon finished his plea before God, he and all the people of Israel consecrated it with sacrifices to God. If we will yield to the Holy Spirit and strive towards the call of Christ, we will be living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. Let's celebrate the great faithfulness of God by intentionally sacrificing our lives for His pleasure, glory, worship and fame among the nations.