

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

LIGHT FROM THE WORD

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September–November 2025
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LIGHT FROM THE WORD

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inside

Light from God's Word

Daily Devotionals

Meet the Writers

Daily Bible Readings

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editor@wesleyan.org

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Light from God's Word

Dear Reader,

Hiking across a desert is a far cry from a walk in the park. If we venture unprepared, we will quickly learn a few lessons.

This quarter, we are going to join the Hebrews as they travel through the desert from Egypt to Canaan, learning valuable lessons about God that will enrich our lives and make us a blessing to others.

In the desert, God commanded his people to be holy as he is holy; not a trace of sin exists in his nature. The rebellious Hebrews often sinned, yet time after time, God showed his mercy by making a way to receive forgiveness through the sacrifices he appointed. Like the Hebrews, we experience mercy through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus' blood. When we sin, we can confess and receive forgiveness.

Although the Hebrews were unfaithful, God remained faithful. Why? God had a grand plan for them. He would bless all nations through Israel, especially through the Messiah, Abraham's descendant. And God has a plan for us too. Sometimes he uses trials and discipline, but these tools are part of the "all things" that work for the good he has designed for us (Rom. 8:28).

As you hike through the desert with the Israelites, our prayer is that you will emerge well-equipped and well-educated for the task of honoring God in your daily life.

Wesleyan Publishing House Editorial Team

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a difference in your life?**

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Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. (John 1:3)

For our wedding anniversary my wife and I decided to splurge. We spent the night at a beautiful hotel on a finger lake in New York. At check-in, they asked if we would be interested in going on the hotel's boat tour. Loving the water, we readily agreed. We found ourselves with one other couple and the boat driver. The boat driver was a wonderful host, going out of his way to make us feel welcome and at home.

Later that night some pictures on the wall in the lobby caught our eyes. The photographs were filled with famous people, actors, and former presidents, who had all stayed at the hotel. We marveled at the fact that the boat driver was in every photograph. After further investigation, my wife and I discovered that the gracious guide was actually the hotel owner. Through driving the boat, the owner met us in a position of humility instead of power. Christ meets us likewise.

Jesus humbled himself, by becoming a part of the world that he created, in order that we might come to know him. Christ, through whom all things were made, came to meet us where we are. As fully God and fully human, he entered the world to offer salvation and peace. Divine grace is revealed when those in power use humility to reach others.

—Scott Donahue-Martens

John 1:1-3

SPEND TIME IN WONDER THAT CREATOR JESUS IS WITH YOU TODAY.

[John] came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. (John 1:7)

Have you ever gone to God or a mentor with the thought “Just tell me what is best, and I will do it,” only to leave frustrated with uncertainty? When you want a direct answer, unclear guidance and a taciturn response often leads to irritation. It can be easy to run to God or a person we consider wise to solve our problems, but easy is not always best. A good mentor does not solve problems, they equip people to solve their own. A mark of a good leader is to empower others to do more than they would otherwise be capable of on their own.

Sandwiched between passages about Christ, who created all things, holds all things in his hands, and is the light to all, is a regular human being, just like you and me. Sure, John was Jesus’ cousin and a great prophet, but fundamentally, he was a man called by God. Despite having created all things, God uses regular people to reveal God’s salvific purposes. John the Baptist knew that he was no savior, but he could be a witness of the one who was and is Savior to all. You are no savior, but God wants to use you to be a witness. Even when he does not directly tell you what that means, he is empowering you every step of the way.

—Scott Donahue-Martens

John 1:4–9

RESPOND TO GOD’S CALL TO BE A WITNESS TO THE LIGHT.

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)

Within one of the first few weeks of kindergarten, my teacher informed the class that we would be adopting a penguin. She put a jar for money on her desk and asked each of us to contribute throughout the year. On Fridays my parents gave me 25 cents for ice cream and, because I thought that adopting a penguin would be the coolest thing in the world, I donated my ice cream money every week. Halfway through the year, we visited the penguins at the zoo and I remember the sheer excitement that I felt as we walked up to the penguin exhibit. I looked in and asked my teacher, "So which one are we adopting as our new class pet?" I do not remember her words, but I remember the disappointment I felt the moment I learned that adoption did not mean we were bringing a penguin to school with us.

Those who accept Christ become a part of the family of God, but not by adoption. John says that we are actually born of God. We call it being "born again." We become brother or sister to other believers and children of the Creator. The change in status is a fundamental change in identity and is brought about through belief and acceptance.

—Scott Donahue-Martens

John 1:10-13

FULFILL YOUR ROLE AS A CHILD OF GOD TODAY.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

Have you ever heard a great story that was eventually ruined because the storyteller added an outlandish or unbelievable detail? What at first was captivating and intriguing melted away as the thought “Did that really happen?” creeps into the mind. Humans love stories. They inspire, shape, and entertain us. Stories are a part of our everyday lives as we watch television, read books, converse with coworkers and family, and surf the internet. The most inspiring stories are the ones that come from real life.

The beginning of John contains what may be the most unbelievable, yet true, claim in any story throughout history: “The Word became flesh.” Jesus Christ, fully God, entered our world as a human. While this may be the most incredible claim you have ever heard, it is 100 percent the gospel truth. Christ came offering grace, love, and salvation.

In a world where fake news and extreme polarization run rampant, it can be hard to know who to trust and what to believe. As Christians, we have confidence in the Word and in his words. Never before had the Word become flesh and never again would the world be the same. The Word is not only a bridge between humans and God; the words of the Word are the foundation of our relationship with each other.

—Scott Donahue-Martens

John 1:14

TRUST IN THE WORD AND HIS WORDS FOR YOUR LIFE.

*Out of his fullness we have all received grace
in place of grace already given. (John 1:16)*

I don't know about you, but I love to share good news with those I am close to. When I have something good to share, it wells up within me until I get it out. I usually can't think of anything else until I share the news. With the advent of texting, I started texting people good news, because I felt like I could not wait until I saw them; I found this to be anti-climactic. The impersonal nature and never being able to see expressions or hear tones ruined the moments that otherwise would have been celebratory. An emoji smile just isn't the same as a real one.

John is teeming with excitement as he proclaims the good news of Christ. He both testifies and cries out to who Christ is and the many blessings that he has given to us. This reaction is understandable, as he was physically in the presence of Jesus. While we are not in his physical presence, Christ's spirit is among us and we are recipients of the many blessings that he gives to us. This gives us reason to celebrate with each other. While everyone celebrates in different ways, I have found it important to celebrate in person with the family of God. Every Sunday is a chance to celebrate and worship together.

—Scott Donahue-Martens

John 1:15-18

SHARE SOME GOOD NEWS IN PERSON WITH SOMEONE YOU LOVE.

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

As the youngest of five children, I watched my older siblings do things that I could only dream of doing. I almost always wanted to join them, whether it was watching a movie, hanging out with their friends, or riding a roller coaster. When the year finally came that I was tall enough to ride the big roller coasters at Hershey Park, I became scared. It took five or six times of watching them ride before I got on. But since that first loop, I continue to love thrill rides to this day.

Beginnings are usually risky, which makes them hard. They are often filled with fear of the unknown or the risk of failure.

John's prologue is a profound section of Scripture that includes the creation of the world, Christ's incarnation and salvation, and us. The balance of human and divine activity is important to the prologue, the gospel as a whole, and our lives. In Christ, we have the perfect example to follow. Even when God calls us to some new beginning or to bear witness to him in a new way, we have the assurance that he who has been around since the beginning is also with us. Just as I needed my siblings to lead me out of my fear of roller coasters, let Christ quell any fears on the journey he is leading you.

—Scott Donahue-Martens

John 1:1-18

GO WITH GOD INTO THE UNKNOWN AND START A NEW BEGINNING.

Give thanks to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. (Ps. 105:1)

People often cringe when they hear a baby cry. Whether it is on an airplane, in a restaurant, or just walking down the street, a crying baby is something most people try to avoid. I was one of those people until I worked as a hospital chaplain in an infant intensive care unit. It was always agonizing to watch a baby struggle for breath and sometimes be placed on a breathing ventilator. In those places, I learned to give thanks to God when I heard a crying baby, because cries were generally a sign of strong lungs.

Perspective and experience changed the way I think about crying babies, and both perspective and experience are important features of an attitude of thankfulness. Giving thanks is not always easy. Many times it is downright hard. The way we handle experiences and our perception of events greatly impacts the way that we respond to life. Sure, an earsplitting cry presents an annoyance, especially as they often occur in confined spaces, but a cry also symbolizes new life, a gift from God worthy of thankfulness and celebration. We can choose to focus on inconveniences, or, as the psalmist suggests, we can give thanks to the Lord for all that he has done for us.

—Scott Donahue-Martens

Psalm 105:1-7

**FIND A NEW PERSPECTIVE THAT WILL BRING YOU
A SPIRIT OF THANKFULNESS.**



Jeannette Carroll is a retired Wesleyan pastor's wife, a God-called teacher, writer, and musician. She resides in Florida.



Ed C. previously served as a *Light from the Word* devotional writer.



Jareb Collins is a senior pastor in Warrenton, Missouri, in the Tri-State District of The Wesleyan Church. He is the author of *Handbook for the Broken Hearted*.



Laurie Dashnau is professor of English and writing, and director of the writing center at Houghton University (NY). She regularly teaches Narrative and Personal Essay, and Writing about Spiritual Experience.



Scott Donahue-Martens is a clinical chaplain and served on staff at a Wesleyan church in Massachusetts.



Lora Goff-Pitts has taught Bible classes for forty years at her local church. She is a mother, grandmother, author, and retired teacher. She and her husband, Rex, reside in Noblesville, IN.



Sarah Grace was disciplined in The Wesleyan Church in the Western New York region. She enjoys camping, music, and being outdoors in all seasons.



Priscilla Hammond is an ordained pastor and associate professor in the Benson School of Business at Southern Wesleyan University (SC).



Carol Jimerson is a wife, mother, and grandmother who loves writing, the outdoors, and mentoring. She is an ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church, Penn York District.



J. Michael Jordan is associate professor of theology at Houghton University, and the author of *Worship in an Age of Anxiety* (IVP, 2024).



Jim "Umf" Lo is a retired professor from Indiana Wesleyan University (IN), cross-cultural leader, intercessor, and author of several books published by Wesleyan Publishing House.



Luigi Peñaranda is the former director of graduate programs in Spanish at Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University.



Lindsey Priest is an Indiana Wesleyan University graduate. She likes to read to her kids, play video games with her husband, and refurbish furniture.



D. Schmidt wrote devotionals for earlier editions of *Light from the Word*. They have been drawn from the archives and reprinted for this publication.



HC Wilson is General Superintendent Emeritus of The Wesleyan Church. He and his wife, Debby, reside in New Brunswick, Canada.



Ethan Zent is the pastor of worship at Follow Church in Upstate South Carolina, where he lives a beautiful life with his beautiful wife.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

By reading for fifteen minutes each day, you can read every chapter of the Bible in one year. Begin anytime!

september

1. Psalms 103–105
2. Psalms 106–108
3. Psalms 109–115
4. Psalms 116–119:64
5. Psalm 119:65–176
6. Psalms 120–131
7. Psalms 132–138
8. Psalms 139–144
9. Psalms 145–150
10. Proverbs 1–3
11. Proverbs 4–7
12. Proverbs 8–10
13. Proverbs 11–13
14. Proverbs 14–16
15. Proverbs 17–19
16. Proverbs 20–22
17. Proverbs 23–25
18. Proverbs 26–28
19. Proverbs 29–31
20. Titus & Philemon
21. Ecclesiastes 1–4
22. Ecclesiastes 5–8
23. Ecclesiastes 9–12
24. Song of Songs 1–4
25. Song of Songs 5–8
26. Hebrews 1–4
27. Hebrews 5–7
28. Hebrews 8–10
29. Hebrews 11–13
30. Isaiah 1–3

october

1. Isaiah 4–6
2. Isaiah 7–9
3. Isaiah 10–13
4. Isaiah 14–16
5. Isaiah 17–21
6. Isaiah 22–25
7. Isaiah 26–28
8. Isaiah 29–31
9. Isaiah 32–34
10. Isaiah 35–37
11. Isaiah 38–40
12. Isaiah 41–42
13. Isaiah 43–44
14. Isaiah 45–47
15. Isaiah 48–50
16. Isaiah 51–53
17. Isaiah 54–57
18. Isaiah 58–60
19. Isaiah 61–64
20. Isaiah 65–66
21. James 1–5
22. Jeremiah 1–3
23. Jeremiah 4–5
24. Jeremiah 6–8
25. Jeremiah 9–11
26. Jeremiah 12–14
27. Jeremiah 15–17
28. Jeremiah 18–21
29. Jeremiah 22–23
30. Jeremiah 24–26
31. Jeremiah 27–29

november

1. Jeremiah 30–31
2. Jeremiah 32–34
3. Jeremiah 35–37
4. Jeremiah 38–41
5. Jeremiah 42–45
6. Jeremiah 46–48
7. Jeremiah 49
8. Jeremiah 50
9. Jeremiah 51–52
10. Lamentations 1–2
11. Lamentations 3–5
12. 1 Peter 1–2
13. 1 Peter 3–5
14. Ezekiel 1–4
15. Ezekiel 5–9
16. Ezekiel 10–13
17. Ezekiel 14–16
18. Ezekiel 17–19
19. Ezekiel 20–21
20. Ezekiel 22–23
21. Ezekiel 24–26
22. Ezekiel 27–28
23. Ezekiel 29–31
24. Ezekiel 32–33
25. Ezekiel 34–36
26. Ezekiel 37–39
27. Ezekiel 40–42
28. Ezekiel 43–45
29. Ezekiel 46–48
30. 2 Peter 1–3



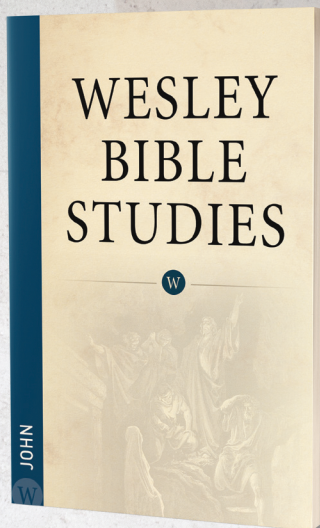
Personal and Life-Changing

To hear God's voice, we must begin with our eyes being opened to the wonders of his Word. *John* is a powerful tool that God's Spirit can use to reveal his truth in you—to form in you a deeper holiness of heart and life.

Also available as an e-book!

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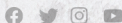
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