

BACK-IT-UP <<

EACH DAY THIS WEEK, take a look at something the Bible says about God's love for people, His desire for us to know Him, and His plans to reach those who don't have a personal relationship with Jesus.

MATTHEW 4:19-20

“‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will make you fishers of men.’ At once they left their nets and followed him.”

PRACTICE: Have you hesitated to act “at once” on something God wants you to do to reach out to someone?

PRAY: Pray that your life will spark people's curiosity and interest in knowing more about Jesus.

LUKE 9:23-26

“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.”

PRACTICE: Is there something you need to put aside—or start doing—to identify more closely with Jesus and His purpose?

PRAY: Pray that you'll never be ashamed of Jesus, but that you will boldly identify with Him.

MARK 10:42-45

“Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.’”

PRACTICE: Who can you help or serve today? How might that open a door for you to share Christ?

PRAY: Pray that you'll develop an attitude of humility and compassion that accurately reflects Jesus.

MATTHEW 5:13-16

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

PRACTICE: What are you doing to enhance others' lives and to whet their appetites for Christ?

PRAY: Ask God to help you illuminate the way to Jesus for many people around you.

1 PETER 2:12

“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”

PRACTICE: How much goodness and kindness can you show to everyone today?

PRAY: Ask God to help your actions speak as clearly as any words about your love for Him.

1 JOHN 3:16-18

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.”

PRACTICE: In what ways do you need to put aside your own interests for the sake of others? Does someone else need something that you have to give?

PRAY: Ask God to help you recognize people's needs and to show compassion by meeting them.