

Dear Friends, In making disciples in accordance with Matthew 28:18-20, we've observed certain disciplines used by people of all ages and backgrounds as ways to follow Jesus Christ consistently. We've especially noted the benefit of spending undistracted time alone with God (UTAWG as Darin likes to describe it!). Darin emails morning devotionals like these below as samples from the **One Year Bible**, which we'd like to send you for using in any way that helps you model having daily time in the Word.

Psalm 117 (English Standard Bible -- ESV with all of these passages given for today from the One Year Bible: 1 Samuel 26-28; John 11:1-54; Psalm 117; Proverbs 15:22-23) **1 Praise the Lord, all you nations. Praise him, all you people of the earth. 2 For his unfailling love for us is powerful; the Lord's faithfulness endures forever.**

What did I learn about God?

Like Thursday's lesson today has yet another passage with God's unfailling love (Hebrew word hesed which I translate as "loyal lovingkindness") and faithfulness (Hebrew word emet which I translate as "truth").

What difference does this make in my life?

It seems worth keeping this focus so I'll continue combining these godly characteristics in my conversations by speaking the truth in love. More Ephesians 4:15!!

How can this reading help me disciple men?

I can keep encouraging Christians this weekend to grow in Christlikeness through the Holy Spirit in us by knowing and applying biblical character.

Acts 16:22-25 (English Standard Version - ESV Bible with all of these passages given for today from the One Year Bible: 2 Kings 8:1-9:13; Acts 16:16-40; Psalm 143; Proverbs 17:26) **22 A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods. 23 They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. 24 So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks. 25 Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening.**

What did I learn about God?

God amazingly allows His people to get severely beaten up by those who won't listen to the good news about salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

What difference does this make in my life?

I'll keep preaching the Gospel even if it results in very painful physical or emotional abuse.

How can this reading help me disciple men?

I can encourage Christians to consider how we have or will suffer spreading God's Word continually.