

Day One: Isaiah 1:18-20

1. What does the Lord want to do (18)? With what sort of posture and tone does he seem to approach this matter? How does he describe the current state of his people's sin (18)? Describe its transformation (18). What happens when God's people are "willing and obedient" (19)? What happens when they "resist and rebel" (20)? How does this passage conclude (20)?
2. Further reflect on the initial words in verse 18. Some translations say, "let us reason together." The Lord wants something besides just dogma or experience to inspire belief in his love; he wants to dialogue with you about it. How does this make you feel? How is the chance to reason with him regarding his power over sin an expression of his persevering love? Talk to God about this text overall. What do you sense him speaking in return?

Day Two: Luke 22:14-20

1. Set the scene of this text (14). During the meal, what did Jesus first say to the apostles (15-16)? How do you think this made them feel? Describe how Jesus gave thanks (17-19). What did he re-emphasize (18)? What did he say about the bread and the cup (19-20)? What must the apostles have thought of Jesus' use of this symbolism? Do you think they had a correct understanding of his message? Why or why not?
2. Re-read verses 19-20 and focus on the twice-mentioned phrase, "for you." God is for you. This is evident on the cross, where Jesus surrendered his body and his blood, *for you*. Meditate on these truths and then proclaim out loud in the first person: God is for me, Jesus' body is given for me, his blood is poured out for me, etc. What thoughts and emotions does this exercise stir within you? How might it impact your experience of taking communion?

Day Three: Romans 5:15-21

1. Contrast "the gift" with "the trespass" (15-17). What exactly are "the gift" and "the trespass"? How does the one gift of salvation conquer the many trespasses found in our hearts and throughout the world (16-17)? How does Paul further contrast the cause of condemnation with the path to righteousness (18-19)? What purpose did the law serve (20)? Compare sin's reign to grace's reign (20-21). What does grace bring to those who receive it (21)?
2. Note Paul's repeated use of the expression "how much more." God's love, found in the gifts of grace and righteousness, is abundant; he does not hold back. What transformations in your own life speak to Jesus' "how much more" power and love? Write them down and thank God for each one. How do you think he wants you to daily live out of this lavish love? What is one practical thing you can start doing in order to obey this call?

Day Four: Galatians 3:1-6

1. How does Paul address the Galatians, and what accusation does he level against them (1)? Of what truth does he remind them (1)? Describe the way he probes them regarding the role of the Holy Spirit versus the role of "the works of the law" in their faith (2-5). What does the example of Abraham show the Galatians about how to achieve righteousness (6)?
2. Imagine that Paul is addressing you in verse three. Ask the Holy Spirit to gently reveal any failures to fully embrace Jesus' work of salvation from beginning to middle to end over the course of your life. How do you try to justify yourself to God with works instead of his persevering grace? How do you think the Lord feels about this? How do you feel about it? Ask for a transformation: that God's perception of your standing before him would be your own.

Day Five: Hebrews 7:18-28

1. Contrast the "former regulation" with the "better hope" (18-22). What makes Jesus' unique "permanent priesthood" possible (23-24)? What does this enable Him to do (25)? How, exactly (25)? How is Jesus able to truly meet our need (26)? What is "our need"? What makes Jesus' sacrifice different than those of prior priests (27)? Contrast "the law" with "the oath" (28). What is Jesus' eternal status (28)?
2. Re-read verse 25 and picture how Jesus, even in this very moment, is praying for you. What feelings does this evoke? What do you want to say to God about it? Meditate on the phrases "save completely" and "perfect forever." Give thanks to Jesus for the loving gifts of inexhaustible salvation and eternal life, and ask that the Holy Spirit would stir up a continual desire for them within your heart and within the hearts of loved ones.