

**Day One: Deuteronomy 28:15-24**

- How would the Israelites be punished for disobeying God (15)? Consider the challenge to “carefully follow *all* his commands.” How careful are you to do all that the Lord tells you to do? What role does God’s salvation play in your ability to obey him?
- Where will the disobedient be cursed (16)? What will be cursed (17-18, 20-24)? When will these curses happen (19)? Note which curses are personal, communal, environmental, etc. This passage is just a fraction of the many curses detailed in chapter 28. Honestly tell the Lord how this lengthy tirade makes you feel. How do you think Jews in the first century felt when they read it?
- What is your own experience of penalties and consequences? Pray God’s salvation would overshadow any shame, self-hatred, etc. Today, for any penalties that leave you feeling particularly adrift, try to instead pay careful attention to all the ways Jesus invites you to anchor yourself in him. Respond to his invitation.

**Day Two: Proverbs 1:20-33**

- Set the scene of wisdom’s speech (20-21). Why do you think the writer uses female pronouns to personify wisdom? In today’s world, where and in what ways does wisdom make itself known?
- What rhetorical questions begin the speech (22)? Describe wisdom’s call to repentance (23). What is the response to this call (24-25)? How will wisdom react to being rejected (26-27)? What words or pictures best describe wisdom’s personality?
- Summarize wisdom’s refusal to give fools a second chance (28-30). What are the consequences of rejecting wisdom (31-32)? Meanwhile, what is the result of heeding its call (33)?
- Read Hebrews 2:1-3 and note its similarities to this passage. What repeating words and themes do you observe? Are the dangers of drifting away from wisdom the same as drifting away from Jesus? As you ponder, ask the Lord for divine insight.

**Day Three: Acts 5:12-16**

- What did the apostles do (12)? Where did the believers meet (12)? Despite being highly regarded, what happened (13)? Why do you think people were reluctant to join them on this porch at the Temple? What do you think these gatherings were like?
- Describe the fledgling church’s growth (14). As people started following Jesus, what else happened (15-16)? This is the only time we read about Peter’s shadow having power to heal; perhaps it was indeed the only time it happened. Read Hebrews 2:4. Why do you think God sometimes distributes one-time gifts “according to his will”? What is he up to?
- Re-read verse 16, focusing on the last phrase: all of them were healed. *All*. Amazing, isn’t it? Miracles like this verify and echo God’s salvation – something available to all of creation. Pray you’d also get to participate in this verification process; through you may God perform signs, wonders and miracles.

**Day Four: Hebrews 10:19-39**

- Why should we draw near to God with sincerity and assurance (19-22)? Which of the points here empower you to stay focused on Jesus and not drift away? Ask God to strengthen these convictions within you now. What is his response to your prayer?

- Why and how should we hold on to hope (23)? Instead of giving up meeting together, what should we do (24-25)? When tempted to drift away, what benefit does gathering together offer? What does the encouragement found there produce in you?
- What awaits those who deliberately sin despite knowing the truth (26-31)? If you or someone you know is forsaking Jesus in this way, pray for them now. Ask God to put us on the right path.
- Describe the persecution this letter's recipients endured (32-34). How does the author encourage them to persevere (35-39)? Which of these points move you the most? Talk to God about this.

#### **Day Five: James 1:19-27**

- What three things should everyone do (19)? Why (20)? As you consider these challenging commands, what does the Lord want to give to you? What is he asking of you? What makes it possible to practice James' words in verse 19 (21)? "The word planted in you" – regular remembrance of Jesus and the scriptures – leads to salvation and keeps us from drifting away. Humbly receive it now. What are you going to do with it?
- Summarize what it looks like to do "what the word says" (22-25). Spiritually speaking, when do you "forget what you look like"? When do you "remember what you heard" and do it? Pray God would bless you in this effort to anchor yourself in Christ.
- What is deceitful and destructive (26)? If this verse brings any conviction, repent. What better way is Jesus showing you, and will you follow it? What is "pure and faultless" (27)? May these and other efforts to keep people from drifting abound in your life.