December 5 Ezekiel 37:1-14

The LORD put his strong hand on me. His Spirit brought me away from my home. He put me down in the middle of a valley. It was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them. I saw a huge number of bones in the valley. The bones were very dry. The LORD asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "LORD and King, you are the only one who knows." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones. Tell them, 'Dry bones, listen to the LORD's message. The LORD and King speaks to you. He says, "I will put breath in you. Then you will come to life again. I will attach tendons to you. I will put flesh on you. I will cover you with skin. So I will put breath in you. And you will come to life again. Then you will know that I am the LORD."" So I prophesied just as the LORD commanded me to. As I was prophesying, I heard a noise. It was a rattling sound. The bones came together. One bone connected itself to another. I saw tendons and flesh appear on them. Skin covered them. But there was no breath in them. Then the LORD said to me, "Prophesy to the breath. Prophesy, son of man. Tell it, 'The LORD and King says, "Breath, come from all four directions. Go into these dead bodies. Then they can live."" So I prophesied just as he commanded me to. And the breath entered them. Then they came to life again. They stood up on their feet. They were like a huge army. Then the LORD said to me, "Son of man, these bones stand for all of the

people of Israel. The people say, 'Our bones are dried up. We've lost all hope. We are cut off.' "So prophesy. Tell them, 'The LORD and King says, "My people, I am going to open up your graves. I am going to bring you out of them. I will take you back to the land of Israel. So I will open up your graves and bring you out of them. Then you will know that I am the LORD. You are my people. I will put my Spirit in you. And you will live again. I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I have spoken. I have done it," announces the LORD."

(Ezekiel 37:1-14)

"Thinking" space.

My thoughts, questions and feelings about what the Bible is saying to me today.



Living



What do these Bible verses say about how I should live for God? What will I do to live in that way?

"Just me and God" space.

Things I'm praying to God and things He's saying to me.

Loving



What do these Bible verses say about how I should love like God? What will I do to love in that way?

Serving



What do these Bible verses say about how I should serve others like God? What will I do to serve that way?

"WOW" space.

December 12 Isaiah 55:1-13

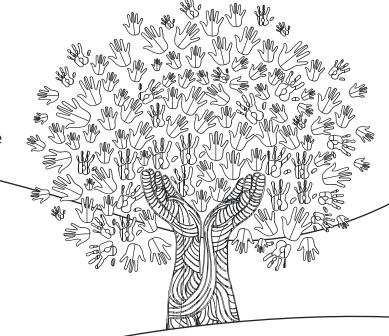
"Come, all of you who are thirsty. Come and drink the water I offer to you. You who do not have any money, come. Buy and eat the grain I give you. Come and buy wine and milk. You will not have to pay anything for it. Why spend money on what is not food? Why work for what does not satisfy you? Listen carefully to me. Then you will eat what is good. You will enjoy the richest food there is. Listen and come to me. Pay attention to me. Then you will live. I will make a covenant with you that will last forever. I will give you my faithful love. I promised it to David. I made him a witness to the nations. He became a leader and commander over them. You too will send for nations you do not know. Even though they do not know you, they will hurry and come to you. That is what I will do. I am the LORD your God. I am the Holy One of Israel. I have honored you." Turn to the LORD before it's too late. Call out to him while he's still ready to help you. Let the one who is evil stop doing evil things. And let him quit thinking evil thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD. The LORD will show him his tender love. Let him turn to our God. He is always ready to forgive. "My thoughts are not like your thoughts. And your ways are not like my ways," announces the LORD. "The heavens are higher than the earth. And my ways are higher than your ways. My thoughts are higher than your thoughts. The rain and the snow come down from the sky.

"Thinking" space.

My thoughts, questions and feelings about what the Bible is saying to me today.

They do not return to it without watering the earth. They make plants come up and grow. The plants produce seeds for farmers. They also produce food for people to eat. The words I speak are like that. They will not return to me without producing results. They will accomplish what I want them to. They will do exactly what I sent them to do. "My people, you will leave Babylonia with joy. You will be led out of it in peace. The mountains and hills will burst into song as you go. And all of the trees in the fields will clap their hands. Pine trees will grow where there used to be bushes that had thorns on them. And myrtle trees will grow where there used to be thorns. That will bring me great fame. It will be a lasting reminder of what I can do. It will not be forgotten."

(Isaiah 55:1-13)



Living



What do these Bible verses say about how I should live for God? What will I do to live in that way?

"Just me and God" space.

Things I'm praying to God and things He's saying to me.

Loving



What do these Bible verses say about how I should love like God? What will I do to love in that way?

Serving



What do these Bible verses say about how I should serve others like God? What will I do to serve that way?

"WOW" space.

December 19 John 1:1-18

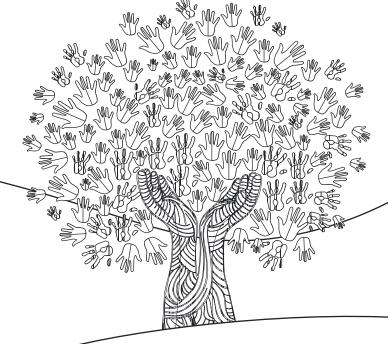
In the beginning, the Word was already there. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were made through him. Nothing that has been made was made without him. Life was in him. and that life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness. But the darkness has not understood it. A man came who was sent from God. His name was John. He came to give witness about that light. He gave witness so that all people could believe. John himself was not the light. He came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. The Word was in the world that was made through him. But the world did not recognize him. He came to what was his own. But his own people did not accept him. Some people did accept him. They believed in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God. To be a child of God has nothing to do with human parents. Children of God are not born because of human choice or because a husband wants them to be born. They are born because of what God does. The Word became a human being. He made his home with us. We have seen his glory. It is the glory of the one and only Son. He came from the Father. And he was full of grace and truth. John gives witness about him. He cries out and says, "This was the one I was talking about. I said, 'He who comes after me is more important than I am.

"Thinking" space.

My thoughts, questions and feelings about what the Bible is saying to me today.

He is more important because he existed before I was born." We have all received one blessing after another. God's grace is not limited. Moses gave us the law. Jesus Christ has given us grace and truth. No one has ever seen God. But God, the one and only Son, is at the Father's side. He has shown us what God is like.

(John 1:1-18)



Living



What do these Bible verses say about how I should live for God? What will I do to live in that way?

"Just me and God" space.

Things I'm praying to God and things He's saying to me.

Loving



What do these Bible verses say about how I should love like God? What will I do to love in that way?

Serving



What do these Bible verses say about how I should serve others like God? What will I do to serve that way?

"WOW" space.

December 26 John 1:19-34

The Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask John who he was. John gave witness to them. He did not try to hide the truth. He spoke to them openly. He said, "I am not the Christ." They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet we've been expecting?" they asked. "No," he answered. They asked one last time, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" John replied, using the words of Isaiah the prophet. John said, "I'm the messenger who is calling out in the desert, 'Make the way for the Lord straight." (Isaiah 40:3) Some Pharisees who had been sent asked him, "If you are not the Christ, why are you baptizing people? Why are you doing that if you aren't Elijah or the Prophet we've been expecting?" "I baptize people with water," John replied. "But One is standing among you whom you do not know. He is the One who comes after me. I am not good enough to untie his sandals." This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan River. That was where John was baptizing. The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him. John said, "Look! The Lamb of God! He takes away the sin of the world! This is the One I was talking about. I said, 'A man who comes after me is more important than I am. That's because he existed before I was born.' I did not know him. But God wants to make it clear to Israel

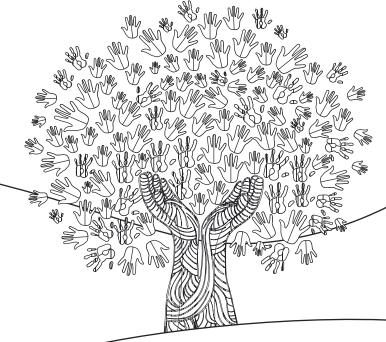
nim. But God wants to make it clear to Is

"Thinking" space.

My thoughts, questions and feelings about what the Bible is saying to me today.

who this person is. That's the reason I came baptizing with water." Then John told them, "I saw the Holy Spirit come down from heaven like a dove. The Spirit remained on Jesus. I would not have known him. But the One who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'You will see the Spirit come down and remain on someone. He is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen it happen. I give witness that this is the Son of God."

(John 1:19-34)



Living



What do these Bible verses say about how I should live for God? What will I do to live in that way?

"Just me and God" space.

Things I'm praying to God and things He's saying to me.

Loving



What do these Bible verses say about how I should love like God? What will I do to love in that way?

Serving



What do these Bible verses say about how I should serve others like God? What will I do to serve that way?

"WOW" space.



