

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.

**Matthew 14:26-27** (English Standard Bible -- ESV with all of these passages given for today from the One Year Bible: Genesis 44-45; Matthew 14:13-36; Psalm 18:37-50; Proverbs 4:11-13) **26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."**

What did I learn about God?

*The LORD Jesus revealed His deity through actions and words: as Jesus walks on the sea, His actual statement in the original language "ego eimi" (translated above in English as "it is I"), refers back to the Sacred Name that God gave of Himself in Exodus 3:14-15. The words Ego Eimi most accurately translate from Greek as I Am (in this passage above and elsewhere used by Jesus to reveal His Oneness with God the Father, which makes the Jews try to kill Him for blasphemy, as shown in the following passage from John 8:58-59). 58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." 59 So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple. See also John 10:30-33!*

What difference does this make in my life?

*I appreciate knowing enough Greek from Dallas Theological Seminary to study passages like those this morning.*

How can this reading help me disciple men?

*I'll encourage men to make knowing details from God's Word a priority in our lives.*

**Exodus 34:5-7** (English Standard Version - ESV Bible with all of these passages given for today from the One Year Bible: Exodus 34:1-35:9; Matthew 27:15-31; Psalm 33:12-22; Proverbs 9:1-6) **5 The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. 6 The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."**

What did I learn about God?

*God uses His Name LORD (Yahweh in Hebrew) in describing Himself as not one to overlook sin, but still abounding in steadfast love (hesed in Hebrew best translated in my opinion as "loyal loving kindness") and faithfulness (emet in Hebrew with the simple description of "truth").*

What difference does this make in my life?

*I experience God's love and truth through the relationship He's given me with Him because of my faith in His Son Jesus Christ's death for my sins.*

How can this reading help me disciple men?

*I'll encourage Christians to act like Christ by dealing with others in godly ways that include us speaking the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).*