

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 [Online 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.

Acts 12:1-5 (New Living Translation Bible -- NLT with all of these passages given for today from the One Year Bible: 1 Kings 19; Acts 12:1-23; Psalm 136; Proverbs 17:14-15)

1 About that time King Herod Agrippa began to persecute some believers in the church. 2 He had the apostle James (John's brother) killed with a sword. 3 When Herod saw how much this pleased the Jewish people, he also arrested Peter. (This took place during the Passover celebration.) 4 Then he imprisoned him, placing him under the guard of four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring Peter out for public trial after the Passover. 5 But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him.

What did I learn about God? God spreads His Gospel sometimes through the death and persecution of those who preach it.

What difference does this make in my life? I'll die readily if that will make others understand God's Word.

How can this reading help me disciple men? I can encourage Christians to follow Jesus Christ to the point of getting persecuted.

Acts 13:47-48 (New Living Translation Bible -- NLT with all of these passages given for today from the One Year Bible: 2 Kings 1-2; Acts 13:42-14:7; Psalm 139; Proverbs 17:19-21)

47 For the Lord gave us this command when he said, 'I have made you a light to the Gentiles, to bring salvation to the farthest corners of the earth.'" 48 When the Gentiles heard this, they were very glad and thanked the Lord for his message; and all who were chosen for eternal life became believers.

What did I learn about God? In the Old Testament God clearly commissioned the Jews to take His Gospel of salvation to the Gentiles [Isaiah 49:6 quoted in the New Testament passage quoted above] and chose to save some, but not all, of those who heard this message.

What difference does this make in my life? I'll continually try to tell each person around me about salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, knowing that God hasn't given everyone the ability to believe in Jesus, with the troubling result that those who remain unbelieving spend eternity in hell. Romans 5

How can this reading help me disciple men? I can encourage Christians to study the hard parts of God's Word without doubting the goodness of our Savior or failing to proclaim Him because of fearing what men will do if we witness the way we should.