UPC Family Daily Devotional

January – Week 2

Memory Verse of the Week

“And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.”

Luke 2:40

Jan 9 Sunday Luke 2:21-40

Both Simeon and Anna were waiting for God to fulfill His promise to send the Messiah. What was their attitude while waiting? What do you do when you feel like God is taking a long time to act? What can you do while you wait for Him?

Jan 10 Monday Luke 2:41-52

It is precisely because of Jesus’ willingness to obey His heavenly Father’s will – even when it goes against the expectations of his earthly parents – that we Christians, though once lost, are ultimately found. We are found through the obedience of Jesus, who submitted to his Father’s will even unto death on a cross.

When did God lead you to do something that went against the expectations of others? What did He teach you or reveal to you?

Jan 11 Tuesday Luke 3:1-6

John is introduced as an obscure prophet who preaches the Word of the Lord in the wilderness and calls people to repent and be baptized. His purpose is to pave the way for the King of kings who will lead His people into eternal salvation.

What mission has the Lord given you in your family, at your workplace, etc.? How can you faithfully carry it out?

Jan 12 Wednesday Luke 3:7-20

The earthly inheritance of Old Testament Israelites was conditioned on their obedience, but we have been granted a heavenly inheritance by GRACE alone. Now that we are spiritual descendants of Abraham, let us take hold of God’s promises for us and run our race of faith in the power of the Holy Spirit.

What good works should you be doing more as a Christian? What form of selfishness is God helping you to overcome?

Jan 13 Thursday Luke 3:21-38

At Jesus’ baptism we see a picture of the three Persons of the Godhead – the holy Trinity. God the Father speaks a word of love and affirmation over God the Son, who has begun His earthly ministry of reconciling the world to the Father; and God the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus to empower Him for His mission. The God of the Bible is simply the Trinity. This is a profound mystery that we as human beings can never fully comprehend but only adore.

How is the Trinity different from all other conceptions of God? Why is it comforting to know that God exists in a unity of love?

Jan 14 Friday Luke 4:1-15

In Jesus’ experience in the wilderness, it is clear that Satan is the one trying to induce Jesus to sin. But what of the fact that the Holy Spirit drove Jesus into the desert in the first place? We are reminded of James’ strong assertion that, “When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone” (James 1:13). But at the same time, how can we forget God commanding Abraham to sacrifice Isaac or God’s challenge with Satan to see if Job would curse God?

All these baffling questions resolve around the perennial mystery of God’s relationship with evil, which the great philosophers have never solved and neither will we. But perhaps it helps to observe one clear result that happens over and over again with each of these instances of temptation and testing: God’s people eventually overcome; they grow stronger and more mature having gone through it.

What are you most easily tempted by? How does God fulfill your deepest longings and pursuits?

Jan 15 Saturday Luke 4:16-30

Jesus’ revelation of his divine task results in a mixed response from the people. His amazing words were gracious, but because he has spoken them in his hometown, it has also aroused doubt and cynicism.

In our own lives, we often find that the greatest resistance to God’s work in our lives comes from those who know us best, thus confirming the adage that familiarity breeds contempt. Even so, Jesus models the importance of beginning our ministry at home, among those in our immediate context, before venturing out into the unknown.

How have you faced resistance to your ministry among close friends and family members? How does God encourage you during these times of frustration?