



## **THURSDAY**                      **12-17-09**

**Read:** **Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11** ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=isaiah+61:1-4;8-11](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=isaiah+61:1-4;8-11))

**Prayer:** Today, I am going to do my best to see the world through Your eyes, Jesus. I can so easily be deceived. Help me to see clearly all the work that You are doing so that I may share Your love more nearly as You would do. Empower me to be one of Your faithful, joyful servants today and every day for the rest of my life. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** Jesus used this Scripture to identify His call to ministry. (Luke 4:18) Jesus said that He fulfilled this Scripture. His call, and the call upon all His followers is clearly demonstrated here. Take an inventory of your schedule for today. How are you going to follow Jesus' example? Be open to Jesus' leading to reach out to someone who is blind, deaf, hungry, imprisoned, or oppressed (either physically, emotionally, or spiritually). Be ready and willing to let Jesus lead you into a ministry to the "least of these" today.

**Resolve:** I celebrate the ministry of Jesus in my life today!

## **FRIDAY**                              **12-18-09**

**Read:** **John 1:6-8, 19-28** ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+1:6-8;19-28](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+1:6-8;19-28))

**Prayer:** Forgive me, Lord, I leave so little room for wonder in my life. I am too often obsessed with control and explanations. A surprise throws me off balance and the unknown scares me. Amaze me again with Your grace and help me to recognize Your marvelous deeds. Mysterious Word of God, fill my life with wonder today. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** The Word of God is another way of talking of the Creator of the universe! By some mysterious, only God knows way, the Creator is One and more than One. The Word is flesh and spirit completely. John is the person chosen to point to the mystery of God unfolding in his lifetime. Unhook your mind from all known ideas about God today and allow yourself to imagine the depth, height, and breadth of the Eternal, Mysterious, and Personal God.

**Resolve:** The God of the universe is much bigger than I can comprehend, but personal enough to love me and accept my love.

## **SATURDAY**                              **12-19-09**

**Read:** **Psalm 13** ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+13](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+13))

**Prayer:** Eternal God, I respectfully request that You hold out Your hands. I am going to give you all my worries one by one. My health, my family, my job, my friends, my church, my future, my world---all I give over to You. I am willing to work hard for Your Kingdom God. I am willing to be a responsible member of Your family. But, I can no longer carry all these worrisome burdens. Thank You for being willing to share my burden and therefore make it easier to carry! Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** In the midst of life's storms it is difficult to remember to trust the Lord. Sometimes we are so filled with worry that there is no place for God to come into our lives. Decide today to empty out the worry, so that God can be more alive within your life.

**Resolve:** I am emptying my heart of worry, so that I can trust God more!