

Connected: Through the Eyes of the Magi **Life Steps** | December 31 & January 1, 2017

MONDAY

Matthew 1

After reading Matthew 1, take time to remember and reflect on how God is already working in your life. Make a list of a few things/areas in your life where God has birthed a miracle for you. Keep these moments with you throughout the day and keep a posture of gratitude.

TUESDAY

Matthew 2:1-2

After beginning your morning in scripture, before rushing off to start your day, take a few moments to think about areas/relationships/situations of your life where God may be speaking to you but you haven't listened. Take this time to pause, be still, and listen for what God is speaking into your life now. Remember, this isn't necessarily audible words; it might be helpful to think of it in terms of God pulling you in a certain direction. Be mindful that God is always speaking into your life.

WEDNESDAY

Matthew 6:33-34

Often, our worries, fears, and doubts keep us from seeking to understand and recognize God with us. Keep these verses with you throughout the day as a way of not allowing these obstacles to keep you from God's presence. Understanding comes from seeking.

THURSDAY

Psalms 63

After reading this psalm, be reminded of the passionate way in which we are to seek after God. As God is speaking into our lives, we need to respond by seeking to understand God's work in our lives. Throughout the day, read through the first 8 verses of this psalm many times to be reminded all day of our passionate response to God's actions

FRIDAY

Matthew 2:10-11

Remember that worship as a response to God's actions involves us giving our best to God. The magi gave gold, frankincense, and myrrh because it was what they had to give. Today, live your day as an act of worship by giving God the best you have to give through your work and your relationships.

Saturday

Luke 2:22-35

Words have the power to give life and take it away. After reading this scripture, think about how powerful Simeon's words were and how overjoyed Mary and Joseph were to hear Simeon speak so powerfully about their son. As an act of worship today, engage people with words that give life and build people up. Be reminded that we are all children of God.

SUNDAY

Psalms 148

Remember that the first people to recognize God's actions were gentiles. Read this psalm before coming to worship today and remember that God's salvation is for all of God's children. As you engage people at church, be reminded that God's love is for everyone. Make your love the same.