

GOD'S WORD comes DOWN

daily advent texts
for teens & young adults

by Jeremy Becker



Week One: The Spoken Word

God speaks and things happen!

Sunday, Week One • Words of Creation

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. Genesis 1:3

“Let there be light!” In the darkest of spaces, a single light—even though very dim—can fill up the whole place. Darkness cannot win against light. Imagine what that original darkness must have been like. Suddenly, by the Word of God, light burst forth out of nothing. The darkness is gone, and in its place, light! The beginning of God’s creation happens through four simple words. What amazing power!

Because of sin in the world, it seems that darkness is still around us. There is hate and selfishness; lies and fear. The one who seeks to destroy tries to fill empty spaces with darkness. Imagine what that’s like when we get out of the way and let God the Creator speak his word, his light, into our life. His light pierces through any and all darkness and wins every time.

Dear God of all creation, speak your life, light and love into my life. Help me to see the amazing grace you have for me in my darkest moments, and let your light shine in and through me to others.

Get the WORD Out!

Draw a picture of the sun, write a word in the middle of the sun that reminds you of God’s light and love for you. This could be the name of a person who reminds you of God’s love, a place where you go to be filled with God’s light, or even a feeling or emotion you know reminds you of God’s gifts.



Monday, Week One • Ten Commandments

The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and stay there. I will give you the pieces of stone with the Law which I have written for you to teach the people.” Exodus 24:12

God invited Moses to go up on Mount Sinai. It was there that God gave us his ten commandments. Exodus 20 specifically says that God spoke these words to Moses. God uses his words to deliver powerful expectations of how his people should live. He gets specific about worship, parents, stealing and gossip. Later in the New Testament, Jesus summarizes the commandments into two: love God and love others.

God’s expectations of his people are impossible to fulfill perfectly. Even in the beginning of the world, God knew that no one would keep the law perfectly. That didn’t stop him from laying out his expectations. Thankfully, he also had a plan, from the beginning, to send his Son Jesus to be the Savior!

Our response of thanksgiving for being rescued from our sin and imperfection is to attempt to live how he would have us live. Thanks be to God that we don’t have to rely on our own feeble attempts at perfection, but that Jesus is our victory.

Giver of the Law, we fail more times than we succeed at keeping your laws. Thank you for loving us in spite of our failures. Thanks for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Help us to live a life of obedience as a response of thanksgiving to your grace in Christ.

Get the WORD Out!

Choose one commandment to focus on this week. Make a deliberate attempt to honor this commandment. Thank God for his forgiveness when you fail.

Tuesday, Week One • God Keeps His Word

“No, I will not break my covenant; I will not take back one word of what I said.” Psalm 89:34 (TLB)

God makes several covenant promises in Scripture. The rainbow is the sign of the covenant promise he made with Noah to never again send a flood to destroy the entire world. God made a promise to Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the sands on the shore or the stars in the sky. In fact, there are hundreds of promises made throughout Scripture and the best part is this: God doesn't break his promises. His words are binding. He doesn't take them back.

There used to be a time when people's words were binding and contractual. People wouldn't dare to break a promise. The more promises were broken, the harder it became to trust people. Legislation and lawyers are now critical in helping people “keep their word,” yet still people work to manipulate and deceive.

Thankfully, as you read God's Word, you can be assured that the promises God made he continues to keep. We can trust God and his Word and promises for our lives.

Heavenly Father, help us to remember that we can always trust you, and that you never break your word. Thank you for the promises you make to us to protect us, preserve us, and eternally provide for us life with you.

Get the WORD Out!

Do a quick search for promises that God makes to us in the Bible. Write down a promise that is important to you and put it in a place where you will be reminded of God's promise to you every day.

Wednesday, Week One • I Will Be Your God

I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the LORD. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart. Jeremiah 24:7

“I will be your God!” It is God’s promise made to Abraham, to his descendants and the chosen people several times in Scripture. These words are a promise. A promise that no matter what happens, he will never leave or forsake his people. When God’s people are in turmoil and dealing with crisis after crisis ... he is still their God. When God’s people are successful and flourishing in all areas of life ... he is still their God. When people are worshiping God and giving Him honor, glory and praise ... he is still their God. When people turn their back on God and walk away ... he still promises always to be their God. What great comfort this is, to know that his word of promise is still true for us today, He will always be our God.

Dear Lord, help me to know that in all I do or say, you will always be my God. Thanks for loving me always. Help me to never forget that you will always be there for me.

Get the WORD Out!
Write this on a Post-it note: *“I will be your God.” –God*
Stick the note on your bathroom mirror as a reminder every morning that God is with you!



Thursday, Week One • Burning Bush

**When Moses saw it, he marveled at the sight; and as he approached to look more closely, there came the voice of the Lord.
Acts 7:31**

Moses, off in the distance, sees a fire. A fire burning with no one to tend to it required further examination. If possible, the fire should be put out so that it wouldn't spread across the countryside, causing more damage. When Moses got close enough, he discovered that while the bush was burning, it wasn't being consumed by the fire. Then Moses heard the voice of the Lord. Words were being spoken from this burning bush. The words were calling Moses to be the spokesperson for the Lord to the Egyptians—powerful words, encouraging words, convincing Moses of the task set before him.

God's call is for you too—powerful words spoken in his Scripture, gentle words from a friend in need, encouraging words from a trusted mentor. Watch, be ready, look around and marvel at God speaking to you in amazing ways, calling you to join him in service to others.

Holy Spirit, be with us every day. Help us to hear you calling us to love and serve others in places where you are already present. Give us the strength to follow your calling for our lives.

Get the WORD Out!

Moses made excuses for why he shouldn't have to do what God was calling him to do. Think of one excuse you have used in response to a time when God might have called you. Write it down and then cross it out, asking God to help you not use that excuse in the future.



Friday, Week One • God Called Samuel

The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” 1 Samuel 3:10

God called to Samuel three times. The first two times, Samuel was confused and thought that the priest Eli was calling him. Samuel went running to Eli, only to be told that Eli wasn't calling him. Eli then realized that the Lord must be calling Samuel. The next time Samuel heard the calling, wise Eli told Samuel to respond with the words, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

God's words are amazing. With his Word he spoke the world into existence. When he calls, it is wise counsel to respond by saying, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” Imagine what words of power, hope, peace or calling He would speak into your life. Even if you do not literally hear his voice call you like Samuel did, listen to wise Eli's advice. You can let God know you are ready to listen anytime. “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

Dear Lord, speak, for your servant is listening. Help me to hear your voice, your words of calling in my life. Help me to follow you.

Get the WORD Out!

Use Samuel's simple prayer as your prayer this day. Say it aloud or in the quiet of your mind. “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

And then, listen!

GOD'S WORD comes DOWN

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. John 1:1

In a world of tweets and instant messages, words move quickly but without any lasting significance. This season, open your eyes, ears and heart to receive and share the powerful and eternal Word of God: the spoken Word that sparked creation, the written Word that foretold our salvation, the living Word that cooed and cried out from the Bethlehem manger, the everlasting Word that we are blessed to share.



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