**UNCERTAIN: CERTAIN FAITH IN UNCERTAIN TIMES**

**My Plan or Your Plan**

**Downloads**

**Daily Time With Truth**

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**Day 1** Mark 1:14-15 New Living Translation (NLT)

Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God’s Good News.“The time promised by God has come at last!” he announced. “The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!”

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**Day 2:** Romans 15:19 New Living Translation (NLT)

They were convinced by the power of miraculous signs and wonders and by the power of God’s Spirit. In this way, I have fully presented the Good News of Christ from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum.

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**Day 3:** 1 Corinthians 1:10 New International Version (NIV)

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

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**Day 4:** Psalm 18:5 New International Version (NIV)

In my distress I called to the Lord;  
I cried to my God for help.  
From his temple he heard my voice;  
my cry came before him, into his ears.

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**Day 5**: Acts 1:14 New International Version (NIV)

They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

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**Discussion Questions:**

1. What has been the deepest disappointment for you in this current season?

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2. What were the expectations the people had regarding the Messiah and how did they handle their disappointments? Have you ever been disappointed in God for not meeting an expectation you had? Tell us about it.

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3. What of the Jews own desires do you think muddied their thinking?

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4. In what ways does Jesus expand the Jews’ understanding of the kingdom of God?

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5. “Fight the good fight for what we believe. Hold tightly to the eternal life that God has given you, which you have confessed well before many witnesses.” (1 Timothy 6:12) How are you witnessing to the truth about Jesus through God’s grace? (Acts 1:8).

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6. What inspired the disciples to meet continually for prayer and united them to be of one mind?

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7. Why is prayer so important to God? What do your prayers reveal about you?

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8. What are you feeling desperate about, in this season?

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9. How desperate are you right now for God? How can we support one another in prayer?

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**Digging Deeper:**

When we read the word “kingdom” in the Bible, we must not import modern notions of a geographical area. The word simply indicates a realm in which a king exercises his power to act and control. The OT knows two different forms of God’s sovereign rule, or kingdom. (1) There is a universal kingdom. God controls all events in the universe but does so nearly always through providence, so that his rule is hidden. (2) There is to be a visible earthly kingdom. In the future, Jesus will return to earth to rule in person over the whole earth.

The NT adds another, previously unknown, form of the divine kingdom. This form, like that of the prophetic kingdom, is intimately linked with Jesus, for He is its king. When Jesus was on earth, this kingdom existed here. Although Jesus did not take up earthly political power (Jn. 18:36), the miracles he performed showed his authority over every competing power. But Jesus the king was rejected and crucified, as his enemies struggled to force his kingdom out of history.

But Jesus’ death was not the end. During his days on earth, Jesus explained what life under his rule (i.e., in his kingdom) would be like. It is best to take most Gospel descriptions of the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God (which should be treated as synonyms) as explanations of life in Jesus’ present kingdom. Here we are given powerful insights into how we can live today as Jesus’ subjects and experience his power. Because the new birth brings us into union with Jesus and brings Jesus in a unique way into our experience here on earth, we live in a day in which the king is present, though still disguised. Because Jesus is present, the unmatched power of God can find supernatural expression in and through our lives. **New International Encyclopedia of Bible Words**

1. How has the kingdom been inaugurated through Jesus already? Why do we pray for the kingdom to come? Describe what you understand the future kingdom to look like?

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2. In what areas do you struggle to bend the knee to submit fully to Jesus’ lordship and where do you most yearn to see His power be manifest in your life today?

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