

# Your Word is a Lamp to my Feet

A daily devotional study guide



*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a  
light for my path. (Psalm 119:105)*

Developed by Pastor Brian Kom

*This devotion guide is dedicated to my wife,  
Angela - she has always been intrigued by  
the Old Testament and its pictures of the  
coming Messiah. May this Devotion Guide  
point those pictures out to us all.*

# Introduction to the Devotion Guide

## Purpose of this guide:

This devotional guide was written with two realizations in mind. First, the study of God's Word is a vital part of a Christian's life. This study strengthens our grasp on God's promises - especially the promise of eternal life through faith in our Savior. Yet God's Word is also needed as we live right now; the Psalmist says, *I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You* (Psalm 119:11). God's Word empowers and motivates us to serve our Lord. The second realization that prompts this devotional guide is that pastors are good at telling people to do serious Bible study but not always so good at giving them the tools to do so. Certainly no one needs a devotion guide to study God's Word. At the same time, having a tool that gives background information and application suggestions can be useful in our study of God's Word. More than that, having a schedule for Bible study brings discipline and accountability to this part of our walk with the Lord. By following the schedule prescribed in this guide a person will do a good job of studying the Word of God on a daily basis. The purpose of this study is the same purpose that the Bible has. St. John simply states, *But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name* (John 20:3). This guide seeks to get the reader into the Word of God - the best "devotion book" in the world.

## The structure of the Guide

There is a page in the devotion guide for every day except Saturday and Sunday. It is assumed that the reader will go to church on a regular basis. Perhaps Saturday's devotion could be based on Sunday's Scripture lessons. Your pastor will be happy to supply you with them.

This guide will especially focus on the Old Testament, the book of John, and the book of Acts. The study guides for Monday, Tuesday and Thursday will take us through the Old Testament and the book of Acts. We finish the year by looking closely at the book of John; the answer key at the end of the devotion guide will be a help. We will apply these Biblical accounts to our lives. There are a few maps at the end of the devotion guide to help in your study.

A second focus of this study guide is the Catechism. On Wednesdays we will systematically work our way through the entire Catechism. The catechism we will be using is the "Blue Catechism" published by our Synod. There are two editions but both use the same question numbers. The differences between editions are very minor. Read through the Catechism questions assigned and then write out answers to the devotion guide's questions. An answer key is at the end of this guide.

The third focus is practical questions that come up in the lives of Christians. For the first 29 Fridays we will study one topic every week. There is an index of topic on page 295.

Every day's guide will include a prayer at the end. We will also read through the Psalms and other books of the Bible during the year.

Note that there is a schedule for 2014-2015 at the end of the devotion guide.

Some suggestions for using this devotional guide:

- 1) Stick with it. This might look intimidating at first and might even be difficult for you. Soon it will become second nature. Devotion time with the Lord is the best part of the day. I am thoroughly convinced that God will powerfully work in hearts that have been energized through daily study and meditation of His Word. God has promised to work through His Word!
- 2) Prioritize your time. Using this guide will take some time out of each day - perhaps 30 - 40 minutes. Each of us has to make tough choices in our lives; what will be most important to you: TV, recreation, exercise, time with your family, sleeping, etc.?

One hint: do you want to enrich your time with your family? Use the devotion guide with your spouse after the kids have gone to bed - or better, wake up early to study the Bible together. Are your children old enough to use this guide in their devotions? What about using the guide as a family?

Sometimes in our society it is almost impossible to get everyone together at the same time. This guide is structured so that individuals or groups can use it. In any case, fit the time in! Perhaps it is much better to put it this way: schedule other things around your devotion time. In other words, feed your soul before you do anything else.

- 3) Don't get bogged down in the structure. Perhaps one day something from the Psalm or the daily Bible reading will especially strike you - don't be afraid to put the guide away and meditate on the passage. The Holy Spirit is a much better Guide than this guide! Listen to His quiet whispers.
- 4) Pray, pray, pray. Surround yourself with prayer. Pray as you go through each part of the guide. Pray that God will open your eyes to the truths of His Word. Certainly He will answer that prayer.
- 5) May God bless you!

Note: All Scripture quotations in this guide are taken from the 1984 NIV.