January 7 | Sunday Hinduism & Christianity Read Colossians 1:9-14



08 | Mon – God's invitation to Zoroastrian Priests | Read Matthew 2:1-12

Many scholars believe that the Wise Men (Magi) were priests in the ancient religion of Zoroastrianism from Persia, the area of modern day Iran. This religion was based on seeing and interpreting signs in the heavens through astronomy and astrology. How interesting that God spoke to them through their understanding of the stars, inviting them to be some of the first to welcome the Savior of the world. Does this give you a new understanding of how God can reach out to those who seek Him, no matter what religion they currently follow?

09 | Tue – God's all-inclusive covenant with Abraham | Read Genesis 12:1-3

God made amazing promises to Abraham...to give him land, make him a great nation, to bless him abundantly. Human nature might interpret those promises to mean "God has made me more special than anyone else" but read the last half of verse 3. Who was God's ultimate focus? If you are one of Abraham's spiritual descendents reading those words, what is your takeaway about God's purpose for blessing us?

10 | Wed – God calls those who are worshipping other gods | Read <u>Joshua 14:1-3, 14-15</u> Joshua reminds us that God called Abraham out of a family that worshipped other gods. In every era, there are stories of God sovereignly revealing Himself to people who believe differently than we expect they should. What does that tell you about God's desire to have a relationship with every single person He has created no matter what they believe, or don't believe, about Him?

11 | Thu – A prophet who resents God's compassion? | Read Jonah 4:1-11

There is often an attitude of "us" vs "them" when it comes to religious matters. Jonah is a prime example. He didn't really want "them" to be saved. Jonah justified his anger by claiming God was too soft-hearted toward those cruel and vicious heathens. Is there a person or group you would rather see God **zap** than see them repent? Is it right for God to extend an offer of mercy to all people, even the ones who deserve punishment for their deeds?

12 | Fri - Going to all nations | Read Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus' last recorded words were directed to his eleven disciples, telling them this good news of salvation was not just for the Jews, it was for the whole world. Anyone, from any ethnicity, any religious persuasion, or none at all, deserves to have the chance to know this truth and decide for themselves if they will believe it. Are you hesitant to share your faith with others practicing a different religion? Could you start by just seeing them as people whom God deeply loves?

13 | Sat - Partial knowledge | Read Acts 17:16-34

Paul was a forceful advocate for faith in Jesus, yet he spoke to intellectuals in Athens about their religious beliefs with respect and humility. His confident trust in Jesus did not make him arrogant. Although Paul had an exceptional mind, his words in 1 Corinthians 12:13 shows he understood his human knowledge was not complete. As you look back at your faith journey, do you sense how limited at times your understanding of God and His ways was? How can this realization shape the way you relate to people with different beliefs?

