



Day 1: The Name

Day 1: The Language of Distance

The Scriptural Foundation: Matthew 2:7-8; Exodus 3:13-15

The Rundown: Notice Herod's vocabulary. He doesn't say "The King" or "The Messiah." He says "the child." It's impersonal. It's safe. When we use words like "the universe," "the divine," or "the big guy upstairs," we are doing exactly what Herod did: acknowledging a power exists without submitting to a Person who has a name. God didn't give Moses a "vague vibe" at the burning bush; He gave him a Name: Yahweh.

The Challenge: Are you worshiping a "Version of Jesus" that is an abstract concept, or are you worshiping the Person of Jesus who has specific things to say about your life?

Action Step: Look at your prayer life or how you talk about God to others. Replace "the universe" or "the divine" with the name of Jesus or Yahweh. Notice how much "heavier" and more personal the conversation becomes when you use His Name.



Day 2: The Quarter-Inch Rule

The Scriptural Foundation: 2 Peter 2:1-2; Matthew 7:15

The Rundown: In ballistics, if your aim is off by a quarter-inch at the muzzle, you'll miss the target by feet once you get downrange. False teaching rarely starts with a blatant lie; it starts with a "slight" shift. It sounds like the Bible, it uses "churchy" words, but the target has shifted from God's Glory to Your Happiness. Herod sounded like a worshiper, but he was an enemy.

The Challenge: Is the "Christian" content you consume (podcasts, books, influencers) making you the star of the show? If the message is "Jesus exists to make your dreams come true," your aim is off.

Action Step: The Resource Audit. Pick one teacher or influencer you follow. Ask: "Does this person ever talk about repentance, the cross, or self-denial?" If it's all "motivation" and no "transformation," hit the unfollow button.



Day 3: The Indwelling Flex

The Scriptural Foundation: John 14:16-17; Acts 1:8

The Rundown: We often feel "spiritual FOMO" (Fear Of Missing Out) when we read about Moses or Elijah. We want the fire and the bushes. But the New Testament tells us they would be jealous of us. In the Old Testament, the Spirit "rushed upon" people for a moment. In you, the Spirit stays. You don't need a "flex" like raining fire when you have the indwelling presence of the Living God in your car, your office, and your home.

The Challenge: Do you live like a "victim of circumstance" or like a "temple of the Holy Spirit"?

Action Step: Stop asking God to "show up." He's already there. Today, practice "The Presence." Every time you walk through a doorway, remind yourself: "The Spirit of God is in me right now. How does that change how I handle this next room?"



Day 4: Gospel Fluency (The Athens Strategy)

The Scriptural Foundation: Acts 17:22-31

The Rundown: Paul didn't scream at the Athenians for having a statue to an "Unknown God." He used it as a bridge. He said, "Let me tell you who He is." This is Gospel Fluency. It's the ability to take a conversation about the "universe" or a "spiritual feeling" and steer it toward the King. Jesus was a "friend of sinners" because He didn't wait for them to come to the Temple; He went to their tables.

The Challenge: Are you staying "safe" in the 99, or are you willing to get "stained" by the world to find the 1?

Action Step: Listen for "openings" today. When someone says, "I'm just putting good vibes out there," don't mock them. Say, "I used to feel that way too, but I found that there's a Person who actually hears those prayers. Can I tell you about Him?"



Day 5: Training vs. Trying

The Scriptural Foundation: Proverbs 27:17; 1 Timothy 4:7-8

The Rundown: We can't be "mile-deep" if we only give God our "inch-deep" leftovers. If we spend 10 hours a week on Netflix but 10 minutes a week in the Word, we shouldn't be surprised when we're easily led astray by the "Herods" of the world. Discipleship is training, not just trying. It requires the "hard work" of dinners, deep study, and sharpening one another.

The Challenge: You have 168 hours this week. If you can't find 7 of them for the One who gave you all of them, who is really on the throne of your heart?

Action Step: The 60-Minute Swap. For the next 7 days, swap one hour of "scroll time" or "TV time" for one hour of deep study. Read a whole book of the Bible (like James or Galatians) in one sitting. Don't just read it—scrutinize it.