Greetings to you in the name of Christ!

Every now and then, instead of finding a new novel to read in my free time I will go to my bookshelf and pick out a book I’ve read many, many times. There’s a couple that are always my go-to’s and I’ve read them enough times that I have quoted them in conversation the same way most people would quote movies or famous historical figures. This tendency that I, and I suspect many others who enjoy reading, have to return to well-known and well-loved books has always been interesting to me. What is it about these stories that draw us back in time and again? While part of it is certainly to do with literary creativity and quality, I think the bigger pull is the familiarity. For me, reading an old novel feels similar to sitting down with an old friend. The story and the characters are always there to welcome you back.

We find this same feeling of comfort when we read again some of the best-known stories in scripture. We find ourselves once again hearing the epic story of David and Goliath, or the romance of Ruth and Boaz, or the sacrifice of Christ. But the familiarity of the stories shouldn’t prevent us from being able to read them with new eyes every time. In the same way that rereading well-known novels reveals deeper meaning or nuance to the story, rereading stories from the Bible does the same. When we pick up the scripture and dive into a passage we know, we must be ready to learn that there is always more to know and receive from the text. This is truly what we mean when we say that we have the Living Word.

May you go throughout the week with your minds and hearts open to receiving a new word from an old story!