



deaf devo

May - August 2017



Dear Faithful Readers,

Every day God gives us new opportunities to grow as Christians. Studying the Bible, reading from a devotion book and praying are ways that can help us grow strong in Jesus.

This issue of *Deaf Devo* has many devotions that will teach you new things about God's Word and challenge you to live every day for Jesus. Thirty-one authors and nine artists helped to prepare this book. Some of the series included in this issue are: God's Plan, Travel, Psalm 23, Happy Times, Minor Prophets and Bible Buildings.

I hope that when you read these devotions, you will be excited to share the Good News about Jesus with your family and friends.

In Christ,



Jo Krueger

Deaf Devo

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Issue 2

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God is With Us

Bible Reading: Romans 8:31-39



Sometimes we may feel overwhelmed by questions and doubts. Even if our problems are small, we still may feel upset and worried.

Even our smallest problems are important to God. God sent His Son, Jesus, to die for us and to give us His love and encouragement. Our Bible Reading today tells us some things about Jesus' love for us. *"Can anything separate us from Christ's love? Can trouble or problems or persecution separate us from his love? If we have no food or clothes or face danger or even death, will that separate us from his love? But in all these troubles we have complete victory through God, who has shown his love for us"* (verses 35a and 37).

Wow! God is always with us to take care of us. He encourages us through His Word and through other Christians. With God's help, we can find peace and comfort. God is with you today. You can depend on Him and His promises every day!
—Bonnie Hall

*"...God is with us. He even let his own Son suffer for us. God gave his Son for all of us. So now with Jesus, God will surely give us all things."
Romans 8:31-32*

PRAYER: Dear God, I know that You are with me today. Thank You for Your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Actions

Bible Reading: James 2:14-19



I saw a video of a little boy. His hands and face were covered with chocolate brownie

crumbs. The little boy said, "I didn't eat the brownies." The little boy's words and actions did not match.

Some Christians today are like that little boy. They say that they follow Jesus. But then these people lie, gossip, cheat, steal and refuse to help needy people. Their actions do not match what they say. These people ruin their Christian testimony to others.

In verse 18b of our Bible Reading, James said, *"I will show you my faith by the good I do."* The things we do should be proof of our faith in Jesus Christ. If our words and actions don't match, some people may never follow Jesus. Our actions should show others that Jesus is our Lord and Savior.

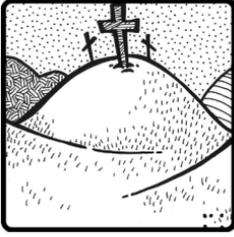
Examine your actions today. Be sure that you are truly following Jesus and His teachings in the Bible.
—Gayle Thorn

*"If you don't help them, your words are worthless. It is the same with faith. If it is just faith and nothing more — if it doesn't do anything — it is dead."
James 4:16b-17*

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, I want to be like Jesus and to obey Your Word. In His name. Amen.

God's Plan (1)

Bible Reading: Ephesians 1:3-10



Long ago, the Israelites were God's special people. They became slaves in Egypt. So

God sent Moses to free the Israelites from their slavery. The Israelites suffered a lot, but God did not leave them when they were slaves. Then Moses led the Israelites to a new land. God was always with them and helped them serve Him.

God did not choose the Israelites because they were perfect people. They disobeyed God and sinned again and again. But He still loved them. God's plan was for His Son, Jesus, to be born from the Israelite nation.

When we sin, we are separated from God. But God's plan is perfect. He sent Jesus to earth to save us from our sins. Verse 10 of our Bible Reading today says, *"God's goal was to finish his plan when the right time came. He planned that all things in heaven and on earth be joined together with Christ as the head."*

Thank God for His wonderful plan. Praise Him and glorify Him today. —**Chase Crough**

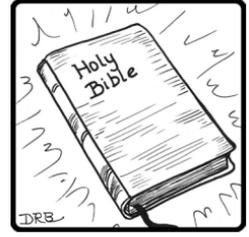
"In Christ we were chosen to be God's people. God had already planned for us to be his people, because that is what he wanted." Ephesians 1:11a

PRAYER: Dear God, thank You for including me in Your plan. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Wednesday, May 3

God's Plan (2)

Bible Reading: Matthew 6:31-34



Yesterday we talked about God's perfect plan. But often we do not focus on His plan. Life is full of distractions and worries. Money, pleasures, jobs, sickness and death are things that may cause us to stop focusing on God.

When Jesus left the earth, He gave His disciples a very important job. In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus told them to tell others about Him and to make them His disciples. We have that responsibility, too. We should go out and share God's Word and plan of salvation.

Maybe your worries are keeping you from telling others about Jesus. In our Bible verses today, Jesus reminded His followers that they should not worry. Jesus said, *"What you should want most is God's kingdom and doing what he wants you to do"* (verse 33a).

Read and study God's Word. Remember that You can always depend on Him to take care of you.

—**Chase Crough**

"Look at the birds. They don't plant, harvest, or save food in barns, but your heavenly Father feeds them.

Don't you know you are worth much more than they are?"

Matthew 6:26

PRAYER: Dear Father, I want to stay focused on You and Your plan. In Jesus' name. Amen.

3

Thursday, May 4

God's Plan (3)

Bible Reading: Revelation 21:1-7



Even before God made the earth, He had a plan for each of us. But His plan for us does

not stop here on earth. God's plan continues throughout eternity.

Adam and Eve sinned and rebelled against God. We are like Adam and Eve. We sin, too. That's why God sent Jesus to die for all of us. Through Jesus and His death on the cross, we have the hope of living forever with God.

We can clearly see God's plan in our Bible verses today. *"Now God's home is with people. He will live with them. They will be his people. God himself will be with them and will be their God"* (verse 3b). God will live with us forever. It will be a great time of happiness and peace.

Can you imagine living without death, sadness, crying or pain? That will be so wonderful! God wants you to follow Him and live with Him forever. Share that Good News with someone today! — **Chase Crough**

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give free water from the spring of the water of life to anyone who is thirsty. All those who win the victory will receive all this." Revelation 21:6b-7a

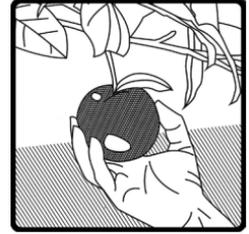
PRAYER: Father, I look forward to living forever with You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Friday, May 5

Grow in Jesus

Bible Reading: Colossians 2:6-10

Every day as I travel to work, I pass an apple orchard. This time of year the apple trees are



starting to blossom. When I look at the trees, I think about the fall time when I will be able to pick apples and make apple pies.

I can look at the apple trees and think about the apples that will grow. But I can't make the apples appear any faster. God has a plan for things that grow on the earth. It takes time for the apples to form and grow.

In the same way, our Christian growth takes time, too. We must be patient as we live every day for Jesus. Paul reminds us in our verses today that if we want to grow in Jesus, we need to stay away from false teachings and things that can draw us away from God.

God will be with you today as you study His Word and grow in Jesus!

—**Jo Krueger**

"You must depend on Christ only, drawing life and strength from him. Just as you were taught the truth, continue to grow stronger in your understanding of it. And never stop giving thanks to God."

Colossians 2:7

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, thank You for helping me be patient as I grow each day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Saturday, May 6

Strong Tree

Bible Reading: Psalm 1:1-6



Psalm 1 talks about a tree and chaff. When trees have plenty of water and good roots, they grow

strong and tall. Chaff is the seed coverings and stems from grain. A farmer separates the grain from the chaff. The chaff is very light and is easily blown away.

If we love and obey God, we are like a tree. As we learn more about God and share His love with others, we mature and become stronger in our faith. But if we do not love and obey God, we are like chaff. We are easily influenced by false teachings. We do not grow and become strong.

How can we be like a strong tree that produces good fruit? Verse 1 of our Bible Reading says that we should not pay attention to evil advice or live like sinners. Verse 2 tells us we should love God's Word and think about it all the time.

Think about your life today. Build your life on God and His Word. Then you will grow and be a strong Christian. —**Bob La Forge**

"So they grow strong, like a tree planted by a stream — a tree that produces fruit when it should and has leaves that never fall. Everything they do is successful."
Psalm 1:3

PRAYER: God, I want to obey You and live for You every day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sunday, May 7

Pay Attention to God

Bible Reading: Psalm 65:1-5



Take some time right now to quiet your thoughts and rest. This is a good time to focus on God and to pay attention to Him.

Maybe you pray to God throughout the day as you work and play. You praise Him, thank Him and ask Him to help you. But it is also important that you allow God to communicate with you. Do you ever really take time to stop and think about how God is answering your prayers? God can speak to us through our thoughts, through His Word, and through other Christians who teach and encourage us.

In our Bible Reading today, the writer is talking to God. He says, *"Anyone can come to you, and you will listen to their prayers. God, you answer our prayers and do what is right"* (verses 2 and 5a). We can pray to God any time and in any place. And God will always pay attention to us.

Take time to pray to God today. And then let Him speak to you.

—**Desiree Enoch**

"I speak to God morning, noon, and night. I tell him what upsets me, and he listens to me!"
Psalm 55:17

PRAYER: Father, thank You for loving me and communicating with me today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

5

Monday, May 8

Live by the Spirit

Bible Reading: Romans 8:5-11



I want to do things I enjoy. But sometimes my wife or son need me to do something for them. I can choose to please myself or to please my family.

Our Bible Reading today talks about priorities. These verses remind us that as Christians our first priority should be to think about what God's Holy Spirit wants us to do. *"If your thinking is controlled by the Spirit, there is life and peace"* (verse 6b). This means that we should not worry about satisfying ourselves. Instead, we should make right choices and live by the Spirit.

It is not always easy to live by the Spirit. But Jesus made this possible for us through His death on the cross. When we accept God's gift of salvation, He gives us His Spirit to help and comfort us every day.

What is most important in your life today? Will you live for yourself and your desires? Or will you live by the Spirit? —**Joseph Pfaff***

"Your body will always be dead because of sin. But if Christ is in you, then the Spirit gives you life, because Christ made you right with God." Romans 8:10

PRAYER: Father, I don't want to live for myself. I want to live by Your Spirit. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Tuesday, May 9

Change Your Heart

Bible Reading: Acts 26:19-22



In our Bible verses today, Paul spoke to King Agrippa. Paul told the king, *"I began telling people to change their hearts and lives and turn back to God"* (verse 20a).

But before Paul started telling people to change their hearts, he changed his own heart. Acts, chapter 9, tells us that Paul was against Christians. He tried to *"scare the followers of the Lord, even saying he would kill them"* (Acts 9:1b). Then Jesus appeared to Paul. Paul repented, changed his heart and became a Christian.

When we change our hearts and obey God, He gives us new life. We become a new person with a new beginning. But if we try to do everything alone, we will fail. We need God to help us grow and to share His love with others.

Jesus died on the cross to give you salvation and eternal life with Him. He wants you to change your heart today and follow Him. —**Linda Lamb**

"Peter said to them, 'Change your hearts and lives and be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Then God will forgive your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" Acts 2:38

PRAYER: Dear Lord, I want to change my heart and follow You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

6

Wednesday, May 10

Jesus' Love

Bible Reading: Ephesians 3:14-20



On the ledge outside my bedroom window is a robin's nest. The father and mother robin have

three babies. I watch the parents as they protect their babies and gather food for them. The father and mother robin are a picture of how Jesus loves and takes care of His followers.

Jesus loves us so much that He was willing to die on the cross for our sins. In our Bible verses, Paul talked about Jesus' love for us. Paul said, *"I pray that you and all God's holy people will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ's love — how wide, how long, how high, and how deep that love is"* (verse 18). Wow - Jesus loves us a lot!

Maybe you don't have a family here on earth who loves you. Or maybe you don't get along with your family. But Jesus loves you! And He has promised to be with you and take care of you every day.

Praise God for His Son, Jesus!
—Eileen C. Wood

"Christ's love is greater than anyone can ever know, but I pray that you will be able to know that love. Then you can be filled with everything God has for you." Ephesians 3:19

PRAYER: God, thank You for Jesus and His love for me. In His name. Amen.

Travel (1)

Bible Reading: Matthew 11:25-30



When I travel, I usually check one bag with the airlines. Many airlines today charge a fee to check bags. But if my bag weighs over 50 pounds, I must pay an extra charge. I don't want to pay an extra charge so I pack only what I need for my trip.

As we go through our lives, God does not want us to carry around things we do not need — like worry and fear. He wants us to be free of these extra burdens. In our Bible verses Jesus said, *"Come to me all of you who are tired from the heavy burden you have been forced to carry. I will give you rest"* (verse 28).

Jesus does not want us to let our worries and fears distract us from following Him. We need to give our worries and fears to Jesus. Then we can be free to grow in Him and enjoy His blessings.

What burdens are you carrying around today? Give them to Jesus. Let Him give you comfort and rest.
—Suzanne Austin-Hill

*"I am gentle and humble in spirit. And you will be able to get some rest. Yes, the teaching that I ask you to accept is easy. The load I give you to carry is light."
Matthew 11:29b-30*

PRAYER: God, I give my burdens to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Travel (2)

Bible Reading: Ephesians 6:10-18



I always check to see what the weather will be like when I travel. It is usually hot all year

where I live. But when I visit my family in another part of the country, it may be cold. I need to be prepared for cold weather by taking a sweater, coat and gloves with me.

In life we experience all kinds of problems. The devil is always trying to tempt us to disobey God. In our Bible verses, Paul told the Christians in Ephesus how to be prepared to fight the devil. Paul says, "Wear God's armor so that you can fight against the devil's clever tricks" (verse 11b).

Paul continues to list what we should have so we can be prepared. We should be truthful and live right. We should have the Good News of peace and be strong in our faith. And we should accept God's salvation and depend on His Word. Wear God's armor today. Then you will be able to stand strong against the devil and his tricks. —**Suzanne Austin-Hill**

"That is why you need God's full armor. Then on the day of evil, you will be able to stand strong. And when you have finished the whole fight, you will still be standing."
Ephesians 6:13

PRAYER: God, thank You for helping me fight against the devil. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Travel (3)

Bible Reading: Galatians 5:16-23



Years ago, when you bought an airline ticket, you may have received a meal on the plane. But that doesn't happen any more. You can buy food on the plane, but it is expensive. So when I travel, I try to bring some fruit for a snack.

In our Bible Reading, Paul talked about fruit. But he was not talking about apples and peaches. Paul was talking about good things that the Holy Spirit produces in our lives. Here are the nine "fruits" that Paul listed: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We need to depend on the Holy Spirit to develop these things in our lives.

I may not remember to take an apple or a peach on the plane when I travel. But I should remember to show these "fruits" in my life every day. When other people see these characteristics in my life, they will know that I follow Jesus. Then they will give honor to God. —**Suzanne Austin-Hill**

"If all these things are in you and growing, you will never fail to be useful to God. You will produce the kind of fruit that should come from your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."
2 Peter 1:8

PRAYER: Father, I want to bring honor and glory to You today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Travel (4)

Bible Reading: John 14:1-7



When I travel by airplane, I try to have a flexible schedule. Sometimes my flight is

delayed or I must take a detour through another city. I cannot trust the airline to get me to my destination on time.

In verse 1 of our Bible Reading today, Jesus said, *“Don’t be troubled. Trust in God, and trust in me.”* I believe Jesus’ words. So I will trust Him. I am not going to worry about things that happen to me.

In verse 3, Jesus said, *“After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back. Then I will take you with me, so that you can be where I am.”* Here Jesus is talking about the place where we will live forever with Him. I know I can trust Jesus’ words here, too. So I will not worry about where I will go when I die.

I can always trust Jesus. You can trust Him, too. Don’t worry about things today. Depend on Jesus!

—**Suzanne Austin-Hill**

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. The only way to the Father is through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father too. But now you know the Father. You have seen him.’”
John 14:6-7

PRAYER: Dearest God, thank You for preparing a place for me to live forever. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Travel (5)

Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 6:4-7

On a recent flight, the pilot announced we were flying at an altitude of 28,000 feet.



Later he announced that there was a storm, so we would be flying at 35,000 feet. The pilot said, “For our safety, we will rise above the storm.”

That experience made me think about God and how He encourages us to “rise” above our problems. In our Bible verses for today, Paul said about problems he faced, *“...we faced troubles, difficulties, and problems of every kind. We were beaten and thrown into prison. People get upset at us and fight against us. We work hard, and sometimes we get no sleep or food”* (verses 4b-5).

But with God’s help, Paul was able to not give up and to live a pure life. Paul showed understanding, patience and kindness to others. God will help you, too. No matter what problems or challenges you face today, ask God to show you how to serve Him. He will help you “rise” above your problems. —**Suzanne Austin-Hill**

“We show that we are God’s servants...by the Holy Spirit, by genuine love, by speaking the truth, and by depending on God’s power.”
2 Corinthians 6: 6-7a

PRAYER: Dear God, thank You for always being with me. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Faithful Servant

Bible Reading: Ephesians 6:19-22



Our verses today tell us that Paul told people “*the secret truth of the gospel*” (verse 19). What was

this secret truth? This was the Good News that God had made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with God.

Some people did not believe in Jesus. They wanted Paul to stop preaching the Good News. So they put Paul in prison. But Paul did not stop preaching about Jesus. Some of Paul’s friends helped him teach God’s message. Verse 21 tells us that one those friends was Tychicus. Paul called him a “*faithful servant of the Lord’s work*” (verse 22).

Tychicus is not mentioned many times in the New Testament. But every time we read about him, he was telling people about Jesus and encouraging Christians to keep following God. He was truly a faithful servant!

God wants us to be faithful servants, too. He wants us to teach people about Jesus and encourage believers. Will you be a faithful servant today? —**Donna J. Howard***

“Jesus said to the followers, ‘Go everywhere in the world. Tell the Good News to every person.’”
Mark 16:15

PRAYER: Father, show me how I can serve You today. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Good Ground

Bible Reading: Mark 4:1-9



In our Bible verses, Jesus told a story about a farmer who planted some seeds. The seeds fell on four different kinds of ground — by the road, on rocky ground, among thorny weeds and on good ground.

The seed in this story represents God’s Word. The different kinds of ground are different kinds of people. The seed that fell on the good ground “*began to grow, and it made grain. Some plants made 30 times more grain, some 60 times more, and some 100 times more*” (verse 8b). This means that those people heard God’s message, accepted it and grew.

This teaches us that we need to accept God’s message and apply it to our lives. Then we will produce good things for God’s kingdom like love, kindness, faithfulness, patience and self-control. As we continue to grow spiritually, we will be able to share about God’s love with other people.

Be like the good ground today!
—**Steve Husting***

“Anyone who says, ‘I believe that Jesus is the Son of God,’ is a person who lives in God, and God lives in that person.” 1 John 4:15

PRAYER: Dear Heavenly Father, I want to pay attention to Your Word and apply it to my life. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Justice

Bible Reading: Revelation 20:11-15



My co-workers and I were talking about a man who was arrested for doing terrible things. Then

the man died in jail before his trial started. My co-workers were upset. They felt that the man should have stayed in prison for many years to pay for his crimes.

Things on earth are not always fair. Sometimes people do not receive the punishment we think they deserve. But as Christians, we know that someday God will judge all people who have ever lived. God's justice will be good and fair. Someday Jesus will return and take His followers to live with Him forever. Our Bible verses today tell us that God is righteous and faithful. He is the very best Judge!

We should praise God that our sins are forgiven by Jesus' death. Jesus paid the full price for our sins when He died on the cross. Thank God today for His justice and forgiveness. —**Bob La Forge**

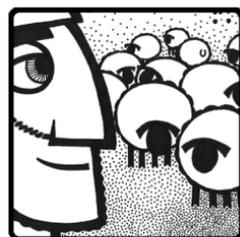
"But if we confess our sins, God will forgive us. We can trust God to do this. He always does what is right. He will make us clean from all the wrong things we have done."
1 John 1:9

PRAYER: I praise You, God. Your justice is righteous and fair. Thank You for forgiveness through Jesus. In His name. Amen.

Psalm 23 (1)

Bible Reading: Psalm 23:1

When King David was a boy, he took care of sheep. David probably knew a lot about



being a good shepherd. David wrote in Psalm 23:1, *"The Lord is my shepherd. I will always have everything I need."*

A good shepherd loves his sheep and takes care of them. He makes sure the sheep have everything they need to live and grow. But sometimes sheep do stupid things. They get caught in between rocks. Or some sheep wander away and are killed by wild animals. A shepherd must be careful to know where his sheep are at all times. He must also keep other animals away from his sheep.

Sometimes we do stupid things, too. We pay attention to people in the world instead of paying attention to the Bible. Then the devil tempts us, and we sin. God loves us and takes care of us like a shepherd takes care of his sheep.

Remember today that God is your Shepherd. He will take care of you.

—**Jo Krueger**

"My God will use his glorious riches to give you everything you need. He will do this through Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:19

PRAYER: Dear God, thank You for loving me and taking care of me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Psalm 23 (2)

Bible Reading: Psalm 23:2



Our Bible verse today says, *“He gives me green pastures to lie in. He leads me by calm pools of*

water.” A good shepherd leads his sheep to places where there is rich, green grass and cool, clean water. Then the sheep have all they need to eat and drink.

Sometimes a sheep will run away from the flock and become lost. This sheep could hurt himself or be attacked by wild animals. But if sheep are with their shepherd, they will know that their master is close. They will be calm and satisfied. When the sheep are calm and satisfied, they eat well and grow strong.

God is our Shepherd. He wants us to know that He is always with us. God wants us to read His Word and become strong Christians. When we know God is with us, we can feel calm and satisfied.

Maybe you are worried today. Or maybe you are facing problems. Remember God is with you. He wants you to stay close to Him and depend on Him for everything you need. —**Jo Krueger**

“The Lord...will never leave his followers without help. He will always protect them.” Psalm 37:28a

PRAYER: Father, I know that You will be with me today. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Psalm 23 (3)

Bible Reading: Psalm 23:3



Today we will talk about the first part of Psalm 23:3. David wrote, *“He restores my strength.”*

Sometimes a sheep can become “cast down.” This means that the sheep is on its back and cannot stand up. A sheep may be cast down because it is sick or too fat or has too much wool. If a sheep is cast down, it needs to stand up soon. If a sheep cannot stand up, it will die. When a shepherd finds a cast down sheep, he will help the sheep stand up. Then he will rub the sheep’s legs so it can walk again. Soon the sheep is strong enough to walk and run.

We can become cast down, too. We may be depressed or discouraged or have a problem with sin. When this happens, God will help us work through our problems. His love and comfort will give us strength to continue serving Him.

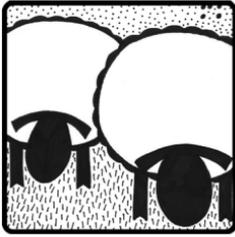
Maybe you are cast down today. Let God encourage You through His Word. Then you can stand strong again. —**Jo Krueger**

“Do your best to live in a way that shows you really are God’s called and chosen people. If you do all this, you will never fall.” 2 Peter 1:10b

PRAYER: Dear God, You know that I need You today. Please be with me and give me strength. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Psalm 23 (4)

Bible Reading: Psalm 23:3



The second part of Psalm 23:3 says, *“He leads me on right paths to show that he is good.”*

For many years in the western United States, cattle ranchers and shepherds were enemies. Why? Because sheep can destroy grass. If sheep are left to graze in the same spot for a long time, they will eat all the grass and the roots, too. Then no grass will grow again in that place. So, a good shepherd moves his sheep from one place to another. But sheep don't know where they should go. The shepherd must lead his sheep to a place filled with good grass.

Sometimes we can go the wrong way in life. Maybe our friends cause us to do bad things. Or maybe we doubt that God can take care of us. Then maybe God will lead us in a different way so we can become close to Him again. When we are on the right path to God, we will know that God is truly good.

Have you wandered away from God? Get on the path that brings you close to God and His Word.

—Jo Krueger

“Your help made me so happy. Give me that joy again. Make my spirit strong and ready to obey you.”
Psalm 51:12

PRAYER: Dear Father, I want to be close to You today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Psalm 23 (5)

Bible Reading: Psalm 23:4



The first part of Psalm 23:4 says, *“Even if I walk through a valley as dark as the grave, I will not be afraid of any danger, because you are with me.”*

In late spring, a shepherd takes his sheep to the meadows higher in the hills. But often the best way to reach these meadows is to walk through the valleys. Sometimes these valleys are filled with dangers: poisonous weeds, sharp rocks or animals waiting to attack the sheep. A good shepherd safely leads his sheep through these valleys to meadows full of green grass.

Sometimes we must walk through dangerous valleys, too. These valleys may be financial problems, sickness, relationship problems or the death of a loved one. But during these times, God is always with us. We don't need to be afraid. We can know that God will take care of us — just like the shepherd takes care of his sheep.

Maybe you are walking through a valley today. Remember that God is with you. He loves you and wants to take care of you. —Jo Krueger

“Lord, you are my Light and my Savior, so why should I be afraid of anyone?” Psalm 27:1a

PRAYER: God, thank You for always taking care of me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Psalm 23 (6)

Bible Reading: Psalm 23:4



The second part of Psalm 23:4 says, “Your rod and staff comfort me.” Shepherds use two

important tools — a rod and a staff. A shepherd uses a rod to discipline his sheep or as a weapon to fight off wild animals. Sometimes sheep can become stuck in holes in rocks. Then the shepherd uses his staff to lift the sheep from the hole. He also uses his staff to guide the sheep in the way he wants them to go.

Some people have compared a shepherd’s rod to the Bible. The Bible shows us when we are doing something wrong. In this way, the Bible disciplines us. The Bible also helps us fight off the devil. We can resist the devil when we remember God’s teaching in the Bible.

The shepherd’s staff can be compared to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives in Christians. He guides us to do right things. The Holy Spirit also comforts us when we are sad and encourages us when we are discouraged.

Depend on the Bible and the Holy Spirit to help you be a strong Christian today. —**Jo Krueger**

“Be strong and brave, and wait for the Lord’s help.” Psalm 27:14b

PRAYER: God, I will depend on Your Word and Your Spirit to help me stay strong. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Psalm 23 (7)

Bible Reading: Psalm 23:5



Verse 5 of Psalm 23 says, “You prepared a meal for me in front of my enemies. You welcomed

me as an honored guest. My cup is full and spilling over.” A good shepherd makes sure that his sheep have enough to eat. If the sheep do not have enough to eat, they may become sick and weak. The shepherd wants his sheep to be happy and satisfied.

In Bible times, it was important for the owner of a house to make a visitor feel welcome. He might have his servant pour oil on the person’s head. The owner of the house would also make sure that the visitor had plenty to eat and drink.

In the same way, God gives us many good things. God blesses us each day. He gives us food to eat and a place to live. God gives us our family and friends. But most important, God gives us salvation through His Son, Jesus. God wants every person to obey and follow Jesus.

Thank God today for the many ways He blesses you. —**Jo Krueger**

“Give thanks to the Lord and call out to him! Tell the nations what he has done! Psalm 105:1

PRAYER: Thank You, Father, for everything You give me to enjoy. But most of all, thank You for Jesus. In His name. Amen.

Psalm 23 (8)

Bible Reading: Psalm 23:6



The last verse of Psalm 23 says, *“Your goodness and mercy will be with me all my life, and I will live in the Lord’s house a long, long time.”* David ends this psalm with an encouraging thought for all people who follow God.

Throughout this psalm, we have learned about the wonderful things a shepherd does for his sheep. He makes sure his sheep have good grass to eat and clean water to drink. The shepherd protects his sheep from wild animals. And he disciplines and leads his sheep on the right paths. The shepherd is good to his sheep. The sheep want to stay close to their shepherd. They know they will be safe with him.

We have also learned about the wonderful things God, our Shepherd, does for us. He is always with us to protect us, to bless us with good things, to feed us through His Word and to discipline us. We should love God and want to be with Him all the time.

Let God be your Shepherd. Love Him and follow Him every day. —**Jo Krueger**

“The Lord is good! There is no end to his faithful love. We can trust him forever and ever!” Psalm 100:5

PRAYER: Loving God, thank You for being my Shepherd. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Serving

Bible Reading: 1 Peter 4:10-11



When I was a child, I was very shy. But I loved to help other people. I always found ways to help people at church, at home or at school. At the time, I did not know that this is called serving others — I just liked to help people.

Jesus came to earth and showed us how to serve. Jesus healed people and taught how to serve others. One of Jesus’ disciples, Peter, talks about serving in our Bible Reading today. Peter explained that God gives each of us special gifts that will *“best serve each other”* (verse 10b).

God has given you special gifts to use for Him. Maybe your gift is serving other people. God helped me develop that gift when I was very young. Now it is easy for me to be His servant.

Use the gifts God has given you! *“Then it is God who will be praised in everything through Jesus Christ”* (verse 11b). —**Brianna McCance***

“If your gift is speaking, your words should be like words from God. If your gift is serving, you should serve with the strength that God gives.”
1 Peter 4:11a

PRAYER: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for giving me opportunities to serve others. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Remain Faithful

Bible Reading: Matthew 24:9-14



While visiting our son and his family in Austin, Texas, my husband and I stayed in our motor

home. It was winter, and it was cold outside. One night the gas in our heater ran out. When we woke up, it was cold and uncomfortable in our motor home. My husband put a full tank of gas in place of the empty one. Soon our camper was warm and comfortable again.

In our Bible verses today, Jesus reminds us that there will be false teachers and evil things in the world. Because of these things, *"most believers will grow cold"* (verse 12b). Sometimes I become cold in my spiritual life. Then I feel empty and uncomfortable. But when I read my Bible and pray every day, I feel warm and comfortable inside again.

Does your spiritual life seem cold and uncomfortable today? If so, I encourage you to spend some time reading the Bible and praying. Then you will feel close to God again.

—Donna J. Howard*

"But the one who remains faithful to the end will be saved. And the Good News I have shared about God's kingdom will be told throughout the world." Matthew 24:13-14a

PRAYER: Dear Lord, I want to always remain faithful to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Christian Friends

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:33-34

If we look at nature, we will see that birds that are the same stay together. We don't see a hummingbird soaring high with an eagle or sparrows making their nests in the swamps with wood ducks.



In the same way, Christians who want to stay close to God should find Christian friends who will encourage and support them. In our Bible Reading, Paul was talking to Christians in the city of Corinth. These Christians were experiencing problems in their church. They were allowing non-Christians to influence their thoughts and behavior.

So Paul reminded these people about their friends. *"Don't be fooled: 'Bad friends will ruin good habits.' Come back to your right way of thinking and stop sinning"* (verses 33-34a). That is good advice for us today, too.

Be careful about the friends you choose. Choose friends who love and honor God! —Lynette Harris Denton

"Be friends with those who are wise, and you will become wise. Choose fools to be your friends, and you will have trouble." Proverbs 13:20

PRAYER: God, surround me with people who love and honor You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Trust God

Bible Reading: Psalm 118:6-9



My husband and I wanted to take our two grandsons to a basketball game. But one grandson

was busy. So we asked one of our neighbors if their son could go with us. They said, "Yes."

After the game, we took our grandson and our neighbor's son home. As we were driving to our home, I realized we had been gone for a long time. But our neighbors had not been worried. They trusted us to take care of their son and bring him home safely.

Then I wondered, "Why is it so hard for people to trust God?" God is always with us, and we can easily learn about Him through the Bible. The Bible teaches us that God is loving and truthful. He knows everything, has power over everything and can be found everywhere!

Our Bible verses remind us how important it is to trust in God. You can trust God today in all situations!

—**Suzanne Austin-Hill**

"It is better to trust in the Lord than to trust in people. It is better to trust in the Lord than to trust in great leaders." Psalm 118:8-9

PRAYER: Father, You are always faithful, trustworthy and true. Thank You for being with me every moment of every day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Happy Times (1)

Bible Reading: Genesis 21:1-7



God is so wonderful! He blesses all of us with times of happiness in our lives. Today and

for the next few days we will look at some happy times in the Bible.

Our Bible verses today tell us about Sarah. She was married to Abraham. Both Abraham and Sarah loved and obeyed God. But they were sad because they were not able to have children. God promised Abraham and Sarah that they would have a son and many descendants.

Abraham and Sarah waited for many years. Finally, when Abraham was 100 years old, "*Sarah became pregnant and gave birth to a son*" (verse 2b). This was a happy time for Abraham and Sarah. Sarah said, "*God has made me happy, and everyone who hears about this will be happy with me*" (verse 6b).

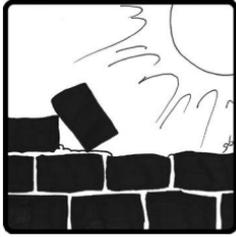
The birth of a child is truly a happy time! Take time today to thank God for the children in your life. —**Jo Krueger**

"No one thought that I, Sarah, would be able to have Abraham's child. But I have given Abraham a son, even though he is old."
Genesis 21:7

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, You have blessed me with so many wonderful things. Thank You that I can teach children about You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Happy Times (2)

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 10-12



The Israelites disobeyed God. So He punished them by allowing other

countries to attack Israel and take the Israelites away from their country.

Many years later, the Israelites were able to return to their homeland. But the wall around Jerusalem had been destroyed. Nehemiah worked with the Israelites to rebuild the wall. When the wall was finished, Ezra, the priest, called the Israelites together.

Ezra read the Book of the Law of Moses to the people. *"All the people listened carefully and paid attention to the Book of the Law"* (verse 3b). Do you know what the Israelites did next? They had a party! The Israelites *"were happy that they could hear the reading of God's law and were now able to understand it"* (verse 12b).

The Israelites were happy to read God's Word again. Thank God today for His Word. Then take time to read it and learn more about Him.

—Jo Krueger

"Today is a special day to our Lord. Don't be sad, because the joy of the Lord will make you strong."
Nehemiah 8:10b

PRAYER: God, Your Word is so special to me. Thank You! In Jesus' name. Amen.

Friday, June 2

Happy Times (3)

Bible Reading: Ecclesiastes 6:7-9

Most people believe that the book of Ecclesiastes was written by King Solomon. He



was a very wealthy man who had everything he could want. In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon talks about his search for what is really important in life.

Many people today are like Solomon. They are searching for things that make them happy. But often they do not search in the right places. They want to find happiness through drugs, alcohol, wealth or high-paying jobs. True happiness can only be found through following God and His Word. And Solomon adds in our verses for today that *"it is better to be happy with what you have than to always want more and more"* (verse 9a).

We can find happiness if we learn to be content with what we have. We should not always be trying to find happiness through more money and things. Thank God for what He has given you and ask Him to help you be satisfied. —**Jo Krueger**

"I have learned to be satisfied with what I have and with whatever happens."
Philippians 4:11b

PRAYER: Dear Lord, I want to find true happiness through You. Thank You for providing for me every day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

18

Saturday, June 3

Happy Times (4)

Bible Reading: Luke 1:46-49



God sent His angel, Gabriel, to visit a Jewish woman from Nazareth. Her name was Mary.

Gabriel told Mary she would become pregnant and give birth to God's Son.

I imagine Mary was very shocked to receive that news. She could have been upset and complained about all the problems she might face in the future. But instead, Mary was happy! Mary said (verses 46b-47a), *"I praise the Lord with all my heart. I am very happy because God is my Savior."*

Many people look at the opportunities God gives them and complain about being uncomfortable or facing new situations. But Mary was thankful that God had chosen her to be the mother of His Son. She thought that God was blessing her, not giving her a problem.

Be happy today when God gives you blessings and new ways to serve Him! —**Jo Krueger**

*"Yes, the Powerful One has done great things for me. His name is very holy. He always gives mercy to those who worship him."
Luke 1:49-50*

PRAYER: Dear Father, thank You for blessing me with new ways to serve You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Happy Times (5)

Bible Reading: Matthew 2:9-12

After Jesus was born, some wise men came from the east to Jerusalem.

These wise men knew that the king of the Jews had been born.

They followed a special star that appeared in the sky.



The wise men stopped first in Jerusalem. But King Herod did not know about a new king that had been born. The Jewish leaders said that the king of the Jews was to be born in Bethlehem. So the wise men followed the star to Bethlehem. *"The star went before them until it stopped above the place where the child was. They were very happy and excited to see the star"* (verses 9b-10).

The wise men were happy to follow the star. Why? So they could worship Jesus. We should always be happy and look forward to times when we can worship Jesus. We can worship Him any time and in any place.

Worship Jesus and thank God for the wonderful gift of His Son! —**Jo Krueger**

"The wise men came to the house where the child was with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshipped him." Matthew 2:11a

PRAYER: Dear God, I am so happy that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to earth to die for me. In His name. Amen.

Happy Times (6)

Bible Reading: Luke 15:8-10



a woman who had ten coins. Then she lost one coin.

We don't know what kind of coins these were and if they were valuable. But they must have been valuable to this woman. She worked hard to clean her house and find the lost coin. And then she called her friends and neighbors. She told them (verse 9b), *"Be happy with me because I have found the coin that I lost!"*

It is wonderful that this woman found her lost coin. But Jesus tells us what is even more wonderful. In verse 10, He said, *"In the same way, it's a happy time for the angels of God when one sinner decides to change."*

People who do not follow Jesus are lost. They need to learn about Jesus and obey Him. And we should be like the angels. We should be happy when someone decides to follow Jesus. —**Jo Krueger**

"...I tell you, heaven is a happy place when one sinner decides to change. There is more joy for that one sinner than for 99 good people who don't need to change." Luke 15:7

PRAYER: Father, thank You for Your wonderful gift of salvation through Jesus. In His name. Amen.

Happy Times (7)

Bible Reading: Matthew 28:1-10



Several times in my life, someone has told me that something will happen. But when it actually happens, I am shocked and amazed. That's what happened with the women who went to the tomb where Jesus was buried.

When the women arrived at the tomb, there was an earthquake and an angel appeared. The angel told the women, *"Don't be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, the one who was killed on the cross. But he is not here. He has risen from death, as he said he would"* (verse 5b). Jesus had told His followers that He would die and be alive again. But when it really happened, they were amazed!

Verse 8 of our Bible Reading says that when the women left the tomb, they were afraid but very happy. They were happy because Jesus had died, but then He was alive! You can be happy today, too. Jesus died for you, and He came alive for you! That should make you very happy!

—**Jo Krueger**

"The angels told them Jesus was alive! So some of our group went to the tomb too. It was just as the women said. They saw the tomb, but they did not see Jesus."

Luke 24:23b-24

PRAYER: God, I am so happy that Jesus is alive! Thank You for saving me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Happy Times (8)

Bible Reading: Acts 2:42-47



Some of my happiest memories are of times when I have been with other Christians — fellowship meals, summer camps and Bible studies.

Our Bible verses today tell us about Christians in the church in Jerusalem. These people ate together, prayed together, studied with the apostles and shared everything they had. Verse 46b says, *“They were happy to share their food and ate with joyful hearts.”*

Wow! These Christians were probably facing times of persecution. Their family members, friends and people they worked with couldn't understand why they were following Jesus. These new Christians could have been sad and upset. Instead, they were happy and joyful!

Be happy when you have opportunities to study and share with other Christians. Thank God for your brothers and sisters in Christ. —**Jo Krueger**

“The believers praised God and were respected by all the people. More and more people were being saved every day, and the Lord was adding them to their group.” Acts 2:47

PRAYER: Thank You, Father, for times of fellowship with other Christians. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Thursday, June 8

Happy Times (9)

Bible Reading: Acts 3:1-10



In Bible times it was a custom for some people to sit by the gates of the Temple and beg. Some of these people had physical problems that kept them from being able to work.

Our Bible Reading tells us about a crippled man who came to the Temple every day. One day Peter and John were there. The crippled man expected them to give him money. Instead, Peter said (verse 6), *“I don't have any silver or gold, but I do have something else I can give you. By the power of Jesus Christ from Nazareth — stand up and walk!”*

Peter lifted the man up and immediately *“his feet and legs became strong”* (verse 7b). Our Bible verses do not say that the man was happy. But they do tell us that the man was jumping and praising God. I think that the man was very happy!

God does many wonderful things for you every day. Think about those things today and be happy!

—**Jo Krueger**

“He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk...He was walking and jumping and praising God.” Acts 3:8

PRAYER: God, You bless me in so many ways. Thank You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

21

Friday, June 9

Happy Times (10)

Bible Reading: Revelation 19:6-9



Today is our last devotion about happy times. We all have happy times and sad times here on

earth. But someday when we live forever with God, all of our times will be happy!

We get an idea of what this happiness will be like from our Bible verses today. These verses tell us that John heard a large crowd of people. They were saying (verses 6b-7a), *“Hallelujah! Our Lord God rules. He is the All-Powerful. Let us rejoice and be happy and give God glory!”* Wow! That really sounds like a time of happiness and rejoicing!

Maybe you are a Christian, but you feel you are not experiencing many happy times here on earth. You can receive comfort by knowing that someday your unhappy times will be over. Then you will live forever with God.

Think about these things today. And remember that God will help you with your problems and take care of you! —**Jo Krueger**

“Now God’s home is with people. He will live with them. They will be his people. God himself will be with them and will be their God.”
Revelation 21:3b

PRAYER: Father, I look forward to living forever with You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

New Life

Bible Reading: Colossians 2:13-15



I have had several pets die. It is always sad. I still miss them, but I can’t bring them back

to life. Because of our sins, we all die spiritually. It’s sad, but there is nothing we can do by ourselves that will bring us back to God.

But there is hope! Verse 13 of our Bible Reading tells us, *“You were spiritually dead because of your sins and because you were not free from the power of your sinful self. But God gave you new life together with Christ. He forgave all our sins.”* When we follow and obey God, He sends His Holy Spirit to live in us. The Holy Spirit gives us new life that will continue forever.

Praise God! That is wonderful news! Because of our sins, we owe God a great debt. But Jesus paid that debt through His death on the cross. We have a new life because of Jesus!

Obey God and His plan of salvation today! Then you will have a new life that lasts forever. —

Gayle Thorn

“But God is rich in mercy, and he loved us very much. We were spiritually dead because of all we had done against him. But he gave us new life together with Christ.”
Ephesians 2:4-5a

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, thank You for new life through Jesus. In His name. Amen.

How to Love God...

Bible Reading: Luke 10:25-28



Our Bible Reading tells us that an expert in the Jewish law came to Jesus. This man asked

Jesus which of God's laws was most important. Jesus' answer in verse 27 was this: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.* When Jesus said this, He was quoting from Deuteronomy 6:5.

What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind? It means we must love God with everything we are: our emotions, thoughts, spirit and physical body. These four things are what it is to be human. They are four separate parts that make us what we are — God's special creation. And God wants us to give ourselves to Him completely!

In the next four devotions, we will learn about these four parts. And we will talk about how we can love and serve God completely. — **Matt Keller**

"But remember — continue to obey the law that the Lord's servant Moses gave you. You must love the Lord your God and obey his commands. You must continue to follow him and serve him the very best that you can." Joshua 22:5

PRAYER: Dear God, I want to love You with my heart, my soul, my strength and my mind. In Jesus' name. Amen.

All Your Heart

Bible Reading: Matthew 6:21-24



Many times when we talk about the "heart" of a person, we are not talking about the muscle that pumps blood. We are talking about a person's feelings, emotions and attitudes.

In our Bible Reading, Jesus talked about loving God. If we love God with all our heart, we do not allow any place in our heart for sin. Instead of a bad attitude, we have a good attitude. Instead of anger and complaints, we have joy and peace. Instead of hurting people, we help people. A good heart produces good works, love, obedience and praise.

Often it is hard to give God all our heart. There are many distractions that can stop us from focusing on Him. Also, it is hard to keep other people and situations from affecting our attitudes. But even when we have struggles, God does not stop loving us. Our love is not perfect, but God's love is perfect.

Remember to keep your focus on Jesus by studying the Bible and showing love to others. This will help you continue loving God with all your heart. — **Matt Keller**

"Your heart will be where your treasure is." Matthew 6:21

PRAYER: Lord, change my heart. Fill me with Your peace and love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

All Your Soul

Bible Reading: Matthew 16:24-26



Genesis 1:27a says, “So God created humans in his own image. He created them to be like himself.” But

God does not have a physical body. So this verse is not talking about our physical bodies. The part of us that is made as a copy of God is our soul. Our soul will live forever. Our physical bodies will die, but our souls will never die.

The Bible tells us that people who follow and obey Jesus will be with Him forever. We will be able to worship Him and be with Him all the time. But we do not need to wait until our physical bodies die to give our souls to Jesus. We can serve and worship Him now.

How can you love God with all your soul right now? Our Bible verses for today remind us that we need to stop thinking about ourselves. Instead we should think about others. We should also worship God, serve Him and depend on Him for our strength.

When you spend time on earth worshiping and serving God, you will be ready to worship Him forever in heaven. —**Matt Keller**

“God is spirit. So the people who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:24

PRAYER: Dear God, I want to be ready to live forever with you. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

All Your Strength

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20



When Jesus said to love God with all your strength, He was talking about our physical bodies. Paul tells us in our Bible verses for today that we can choose to use our bodies to do sinful things or to do good things.

The world is constantly telling us to use our bodies for pleasures like sex, drugs or other selfish things. But all of these things will only give us pleasure for a short time. God does not want us to hurt our bodies with these things.

Instead, God wants us to use our bodies to serve Him. Matthew 25:31-46 teaches that if we see people who are hungry, we should feed them. If we see people who have no clothes or a home, we should find them clothes and a place to stay. If we see someone who is sick or depressed, we should give that person comfort and encouragement.

As long as we live on earth, we can find many ways to use our bodies to serve God. —**Matt Keller**

“Don’t offer the parts of your body to serve sin. Don’t use your bodies to do evil, but offer yourselves to God.” Romans 6:13a

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, give me strength to serve You. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.

All Your Mind

Bible Reading: Colossians 3:12-17



Our mind is the part of us that thinks. We can love God with our mind by choosing to think about

Him and choosing to not think about things that God hates. It is easy to fill our minds with sinful things by reading bad books and magazines, by watching bad movies or TV shows, or by spending our time thinking about sinful things. When we put bad thoughts into our head, it is impossible for us to love God with all our mind.

In our Bible verses, Paul reminds Christians to focus on God. How can we focus on God? We can spend time reading the Bible or books that glorify God. We can watch TV shows or movies that do not include evil things or encourage sin. And we can share with others about God and His Word.

Stay away from evil things and fill your mind with God. Then it will become easier to love Him with your whole mind. —**Matt Keller**

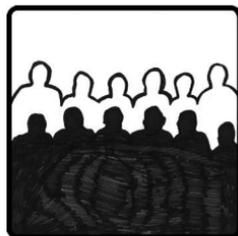
“Brothers and sisters, continue to think about what is good and worthy of praise. Think about what is true and honorable and right and pure and beautiful and respected.”
Philippians 4:8

PRAYER: Dear God, I want to focus on You. Help me to stay away from sinful things. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

True Heroes

Bible Reading: Hebrews 11:32-38

On the movie screen we see superheroes in capes. On TV we see winning quarterbacks, rock stars and famous movie stars. The world sees these people as heroes.



But God’s heroes are different. God’s definition of a hero is not someone who is the most popular or has the most Facebook likes and friends on Twitter. God’s definition of a hero is someone who trusts and obeys Him.

Our Bible verses today list some of God’s true heroes. Some of these people *“had to wander in deserts and mountains, living in caves and holes in the ground”* (verse 38b). These people were persecuted and killed because of their faith in God. They were not like heroes we see on TV and in movies today.

You can be a true hero, too. You don’t have to be extraordinary — you just have to trust God and obey Him. —**Bob La Forge**

“Faith is what makes real the things we hope for. It is proof of what we cannot see. God was pleased with the people who lived a long time ago because they had faith like this.”
Hebrews 11:1-2

PRAYER: Lord, I want to always trust and obey You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Exodus (1)

Bible Reading: Exodus 1:15-22



The book of Exodus is filled with stories about how God took care of His people. For the next few

days, we will talk about some of these stories.

Exodus 1:8 tells us that there was a new king in Egypt. He was worried that the Israelite nation would grow large and fight against him. So the king made the Israelites his slaves. But the Israelites continued having children. Nurses helped the women when they gave birth. Verse 16 of our Bible Reading tells us that the king of Egypt told these nurses, *“You will continue to help the Hebrew women give birth to their children. If a girl baby is born, let the baby live. But if the baby is a boy, you must kill him!”*

These nurses trusted God and did not obey the king. God took care of these nurses and blessed their families. Even though the king could have killed these nurses, they still obeyed God. Are you willing to obey God in every situation today? He will be with you and give you strength and peace! —**Bonnie Hall**

“The nurses trusted God, so he was good to them and allowed them to have their own families.”

Exodus 1:20-21

PRAYER: Father, I know You will be with me to help me obey You today. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Exodus (2)

Bible Reading: Exodus 2:1-10

One Israelite baby boy that was born in Egypt was Moses. Moses’ mother wanted to protect him. So she hid him for three months.



Our Bible verses tell us that Moses’ mother *“hid him as long as she could. After three months she made a basket and covered it with tar so that it would float. Then she put the baby in the river in the tall grass”* (verse 3). Moses’ sister watched the basket until it was taken out of the water by the king’s daughter. Moses grew up in the king’s house. Later, God used Moses to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. That was God’s plan for His people.

God loves us, and He gives us His protection and blessings every day. He does this through His Word, the Bible, and through the encouragement of other Christians. When we face bad times, we do not need to be upset. God will take care of us and show us His plan for our lives. Thank God for His love and protection! —**Bonnie Hall**

“...the Lord’s faithful love will surround those who trust in him.”
Psalm 32:10b

PRAYER: Dear Lord, I know that You love me. Thank You for being with me today. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Exodus (3)

Bible Reading: Exodus 14:10-18



Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt. When the Egyptian king heard about this, he sent his army to bring them back to Egypt. Our Bible verses tell us that when the Israelites saw the king and his army, they were afraid.

The Israelites were so afraid that they wanted to go back to Egypt and be slaves again. But Moses told them, *“Don’t be afraid! Don’t run away! Stand where you are and watch the Lord save you today”* (verse 13a). God caused the water of the Red Sea to divide so the Israelites could walk through on dry land. Then God destroyed the Egyptian army.

Sometimes we may feel like the Israelites. We feel alone and afraid. And we don’t know what we should do next. That’s when we need to pray and ask God to help us. He will help us find a way through our problems and trials. —**Bonnie Hall**

“The Israelites saw the great power of the Lord when he defeated the Egyptians. So the people feared and respected the Lord, and they began to trust the Lord and his servant Moses.” Exodus 14:31

PRAYER: Father, I need You today. I trust You and love You. Please show me how I can obey You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Exodus (4)

Bible Reading: Exodus 17:8-16

Our Bible Reading today tells us about another time when God helped the Israelites defeat their enemies.



The Amalekites fought against Israel. So Moses told Joshua to take some men and go fight the Amalekites. At the same time, Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of a hill. *“Any time Moses held his hands in the air, the men of Israel would start winning the fight. But when Moses put his hands down, the men of Israel began to lose the fight”* (verse 11).

Soon Moses’ arms became tired. So Moses sat on a rock, and Aaron and Hur held Moses’ hands in the air. That is how the Israelites defeated the Amalekite army.

You are probably not fighting a military battle today. But you may be facing health problems, unpaid bills or family troubles. Moses and the Israelites relied on God. If you will rely on God, too, He will help you face your problems and give you peace. —**Bonnie Hall**

“God says there is one thing you can really depend on, and I believe it: ‘Strength comes from God!’”
Psalm 62:11

PRAYER: God, thank You for being with me as I face difficult times today. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Exodus (5)

Bible Reading: Exodus 18:13-20,24-27



Moses and the Israelites were camped near Mount Sinai. Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, heard about

the wonderful things God had done for the Israelites. So Jethro went to visit Moses.

While Jethro was visiting Moses, he saw all the hard work that Moses did. Verse 13 of our Bible Reading tells us that *"Moses had the special job of judging the people. There were so many people that they had to stand before him all day."* Jethro told Moses, *"It is too much work for you to do alone...It wears you out. And it makes the people tired too"* (verse 18a). Then Jethro suggested that Moses choose some good men to help him judge the Israelites.

Sometimes we may have a project at work or home or in the church. But we become tired and want to give up. That's when it is good to ask someone to help us. A person with new ideas may be able to help us finish the job quickly. If you are struggling with a job today, ask God to show you someone who can share your load. —**Bonnie Hall**

"If you do this as God directs you, then you will be able to do your job without tiring yourself out."
Exodus 18:23a

PRAYER: Father, I am willing to accept Your guidance today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Exodus (6)

Bible Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

God gave Moses laws for the Israelites. Some of these laws are listed in our Bible Reading today. Usually we call these ten laws the "Ten Commandments."



God gave these laws so the Israelites would know how to honor Him and to live peacefully with each other.

Recently I read through the Ten Commandments. As I read each command, I thought about how I try to love God every day and to obey Him. But when I read verse 8, I stopped and thought for a long time about my life. Verse 8 talks about setting aside time to rest and to honor God.

Americans are very busy people. We have our jobs, families, church activities, social media and many other things to keep us busy. We live very stressful lives. Often we do not take time to do two important things — honor God and rest our bodies.

Set aside some special time to rest and to focus on God. You will receive both physical and spiritual blessings for doing this. —**Bonnie Hall**

"My Lord God, I praise you with all my heart. I will honor your name forever!" Psalm 86:12

PRAYER: Dear God, I love You so much. Be with me as I take time to honor You and rest my body. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Exodus (7)

Bible Reading: Exodus 33:12-23



Today is our last devotion from the book of Exodus. In our Bible verses, Moses talked to God.

Moses asked God to show him His glory. So God hid Moses in a crack in a rock and then passed by him. Wow - that was something very special!

Moses also asked God for something else. In verse 13, Moses said to God, "...teach me your ways. I want to know you." That is a wonderful example for us. Every day we should ask God to teach us more about Him.

How does God teach us about Himself? First, we can look at the world around us. When we see all the wonderful things God has created, we learn about His power and beauty. Second, we can learn about God by reading His Word. When we read the Bible, we learn how God works in the lives of people who love Him.

Do you want God to teach you His ways? Do you truly want to know God? Look at the world He made today and read about His love and goodness. —**Bonnie Hall**

"If we obey what God has told us to do, then we are sure that we know him." 1 John 2:3

PRAYER: Lord, I want to know more about You every day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Our Helper

Bible Reading: John 16:4-15



In our verses for today, Jesus was talking to His disciples. He told them that He was leaving to go back to God.

Jesus also said that it was better for the disciples that He leave. Why? Because then the Holy Spirit would come and be their Helper.

Sometimes I realize that I am not depending on the Holy Spirit to help me. When I face different kinds of sin in the world, I need to depend on the power of the Holy Spirit to help me face temptations.

The Holy Spirit helps us to overcome our weaknesses, to increase our faith and to live righteously. When we remember that the Holy Spirit is our Helper, we can be bold as we share God's message with the world. *"When the Helper comes, he will show the people of the world how wrong they are about sin, about being right with God, and about judgment"* (verse 8).

You can depend on the Holy Spirit to help you today. He will share God's glory, might and wisdom with you. —**Donna Valverde-Hummel***

"If you love me, you will do what I command. I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever." John 14:15-16

PRAYER: Father God, thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to be our Helper. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Success

Bible Reading: Joshua 1:6-9



Most children have dreams of what they will become when they grow up. They may dream about

being a parent, owning a car and having an important job. They see success as something that will make them happy every day.

But success is not something that just happens or that makes us happy — it is a process. In our Bible Reading today, we see that Joshua knew that success was based on learning about God and living for Him. Joshua had learned that he had to know God's Word and obey it in order to be successful. *"Always remember what is written in that book of law. Speak about that book and study it day and night. Then you can be sure to obey what is written there. If you do all this, you will be wise and successful in everything you do"* (verse 8).

Do you want to have success in your life? Be like Joshua. Study and learn God's Word. Depend on it to lead you every day! —**Robert Segress**

"Remember, I commanded you to be strong and brave. Don't be afraid, because the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

PRAYER: Father, I thank You for Your Word. Help me to be successful and to please You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

F.A.T. People

Bible Reading: Ephesians 5:15-20



A preacher once told me that God uses F.A.T. people. The preacher wasn't talking about people who are overweight. He was talking about people who are **f**aithful, **a**vailable and **t**eachable.

If our faith is small, we don't pay attention to what God says in His Word and then apply it to our lives. We need to be **f**aithful and live for Him every day. If we are busy every day and focus on our cell phone and computer, we will not pay attention when God wants us to bless other people. We should be **a**vailable to serve Him. When we think that we know everything, we are not willing to grow in Jesus. We need to be **t**eachable and allow God to change us.

Paul reminds us in our Bible verses that we need to be careful how we live and do good to others. If you do what Paul says, you will be **f**aithful, **a**vailable and **t**eachable.

—**Elissa Poe***

"So don't be foolish with your lives, but learn what the Lord wants you to do. Always give thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
Ephesians 5:17, 20

PRAYER: Lord, I need Your help so I can be wise and live for You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mentors

Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 1:18-19



In my office at Deaf Missions, I have a photograph of three men who have worked at

Deaf Missions. Each of these men has been a mentor to me during different times of my life. When I look at this photograph, I am reminded of what these men taught me and how they encouraged me in my Christian life.

Paul was a mentor to a young man named Timothy. The first few verses of 2 Timothy tell us that Timothy's grandmother and mother taught him about God. Paul often called Timothy his "dear son." Paul wanted Timothy to mature in his Christian faith and to teach other people about Jesus. Paul told Timothy in verse 19a of our Bible Reading, *"Continue to trust in God and do what you know is right."*

Do you have a Christian mentor in your life? Thank them for encouraging you to be a faithful Christian. Maybe you can be a mentor to a young person like Timothy. —**Jo Krueger**

"Timothy, you are like a son to me...I want you to remember those prophecies and fight the good fight of faith." 1 Timothy 1:18

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, thank You for all the people who encourage me to follow You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Special Relationship

Bible Reading: Exodus 20:1-6



When my husband and I got married, our lives changed. We promised to love each other until

we die. We are devoted to each other and will not allow anything to separate us.

When people become Christians, they develop a very important relationship with God. Just like marriage, our relationship with God is special. We promise to not worship another god, idol, person or possession. Our lives become focused on our one true God.

In our Bible Reading, God gave the Israelites some commands to obey. God told them that they should only worship and serve Him. That command is for Christians today, too. The world has many things that we can love and worship and serve. But we need to stay devoted to God. We should not allow people and possessions to keep us from serving God.

Keep your relationship with God special. Love and serve only Him.

—**Carol Whitney***

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and most important commandment."
Matthew 22:37-38*

PRAYER: God, I want to love and serve You with my whole life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Riches

Bible Reading: Mark 12:41-44



When some people read the Bible, they think that Jesus did not like rich people. Jesus did not hate

rich people, but He did share some strong teachings about being rich.

In Jesus' teaching, He reminds us that riches are temporary. We cannot take them with us when we die. Jesus also taught that it is important to have the right attitude about our riches. In our Bible verses, He told a story about some rich people and a poor widow.

The rich people put a lot of money in the temple collection box. But the poor widow *"came and put in two very small copper coins, worth less than a penny"* (verse 42b). Jesus told His disciples that the poor widow gave more than the rich people. He said that the rich people had plenty and gave only what they did not need. But Jesus said that the widow gave the money that she needed to live on. The widow gave with the right attitude, but the rich people didn't.

Jesus loves all people and wants everyone to love and obey Him. Use your riches for God's kingdom here on earth. —**David Sowards**

"Your heart will be where your treasure is." Luke 12:34

PRAYER: Father, I want to use the money and possessions You give me to serve You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Love Others

Bible Reading: John 13:31-35



What is love? Love is a closeness and friendship toward another person.

There are many kinds of love — romantic love, family love, love between friends and a Christian love that helps people who are sick or needy.

In our Bible Reading, Jesus said, *"Love each other. You must love each other just as I have loved you"* (verse 34b). Jesus was talking about Christian love. He commands us to simply love each other.

We can do many different things to show our love for others. We can make a meal, clean a house, babysit for a neighbor or visit a friend in the hospital. All these things show that we belong to God.

Mother Teresa was a woman who did many wonderful things for people. She said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." Show God's love to other people today. Then they will know that we are God's children. — **Barbara Rusiecki**

"All people will know that you are my followers if you love each other."
John 13:35

PRAYER: Dear Lord, I need Your love so much. I want to love my friends and family like You taught me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Harvest Workers

Bible Reading: Matthew 9:35-38



It is awesome to look at a field of grain that is ripe and ready to harvest. Years ago, a

field would be filled with workers harvesting the grain by hand. Today farmers use large modern machinery to gather the grain.

In our Bible verses, Jesus talked about *“a big harvest of people to bring in”* (verse 37b). What was Jesus talking about? He was talking about people in the world who need to learn about Jesus and follow Him.

Who are the workers in the harvest? We are the workers who should tell other people about Jesus. We have a big job to do. There are many people in the world who do not know about God’s wonderful gift of salvation.

You can go to a foreign mission field to find people who need to know about Jesus. Or you can share with people you meet today — your co-workers, people you meet in the grocery store or people in your neighborhood. God can use you to be a good worker in His harvest.

—**Eileen C. Wood**

“God owns the harvest. Ask him to send more workers to help gather the harvest.” Matthew 9:38

PRAYER: God, there are so many people who don’t know You. Use me today to share the Good News about Jesus. In His name. Amen.

Head (1)

Bible Reading: Romans 12:1-2



Today and for the next few days, we will talk about the different parts of our head. We will learn what the Bible says about these parts.

The first part we will learn about is the mind. This is the part of our body where we think, feel and make decisions. The book of Romans talks about the mind in several different ways — thinking about sinful things, our deepest thoughts, thinking about other people and our belief in God.

In our Bible Reading, Paul says, *“...let God change you inside with a new way of thinking”* (verse 2b). What is this new way of thinking? It is thinking differently than the world thinks. A new way of thinking means dedicating our minds to God. Then He will help us resist temptation, think about His Word and do things that please Him.

Ask God to change you and help you have a new way of thinking. Focus on Him and His Word, the Bible, today. —**Diana French**

“Then you will be able to decide and accept what God wants for you. You will be able to know what is good and pleasing to him and what is perfect.” Romans 12:2b

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, I want to love and serve You with all my heart, all my soul and all my mind. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Head (2)

Bible Reading: Matthew 10:29-31



Another part of the head is hair. The Bible talks about hair as protection for the head, as

something beautiful to look at and as a sign of honor.

Many people mentioned in the Bible had dark hair and some had red hair. Hebrew men grew long beards and were not supposed to cut off its edges (Leviticus 19:27).

Judges, chapters 13 through 16, tells us about Samson. He was a man who was dedicated to God. As a sign of this dedication, Samson was to never cut his hair. God's Spirit was with Samson and gave Him special physical strength. When Samson's hair was cut, he lost his strength.

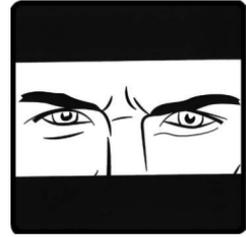
Our Bible verses today have always amazed me. Verse 30 says that *"God even knows how many hairs are on your head."* This shows us that God knows everything about every person. God made you and loves you very much. Praise and honor Him today! —**Diana French**

"I praise you because you made me in such a wonderful way. I know how amazing that was!"
Psalm 139:14

PRAYER: God, I am so happy that You know me. Please guide me and give me strength to serve You today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Head (3)

Bible Reading: Luke 11:33-36



In Bible times, a person's eyes were considered very important parts of the body. People were careful to protect their eyes. In Psalm 17:8 the writer says to God, *"Protect me like the pupil of your eye. Hide me in the shadow of your wings."*

The Bible also talks about eyes to describe understanding God's Word. When someone prayed that God would open his eyes, he was praying that God would help him understand His Word.

Verse 34 of our Bible Reading talks about the eye. *"The only source of light for the body is the eye. When you look at people and want to help them, you are full of light. But when you look at people in a selfish way, you are full of darkness."* This verse tells us that a person who focuses on good things is full of light. But a person who wants to do what is bad is full of darkness.

Keep your eyes full of light today by studying God's Word and doing things that honor and please Him.

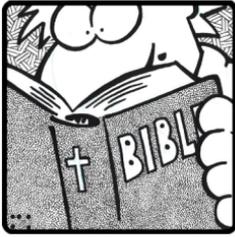
—**Diana French**

"I will not even look at anything shameful. I hate all wrong doing. I want no part of it!"
Psalm 101:3

PRAYER: Dear God, I know that You will be with me today. Thank You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Head (4)

Bible Reading: Matthew 13:10-17



Ears were an important part of some Jewish ceremonies. Blood was put on the right ear

lobes of Aaron, the High Priest, and his sons (Exodus 29:20). A slave's ear was pierced to show he belonged to his master for life (Exodus 21:6).

Our Bible verses today talk about people who have ears but do not listen. This is not talking about physically hearing God's message with our ears. It is talking about paying attention to God's Word and accepting it. Jesus used stories to teach His followers. He did this so wise people would understand, but evil people would not understand. These evil people refused to accept Jesus' teachings.

When we become a Christian, it doesn't matter if we are Deaf or hearing. God's Spirit comes to live in us and help us learn about God and grow spiritually.

Ask God to teach you more about Him today and to understand His Word, the Bible. —**Diana French**

*"Yes, the minds of the people are now closed. They have ears, but they don't listen. They have eyes, but they refuse to see."
Matthew 13:15a*

PRAYER: Father, I want to be wise and accept Your message. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Head (5)

Bible Reading: James 3:2-10



The last part of the head we will talk about is the tongue. In our Bible Reading, James talks about the tongue. It doesn't matter if we use our tongues or our hands to communicate. But we do need to make sure that our communication pleases God.

Our communication can be good or bad. We communicate in a bad way when we complain, gossip, tell lies, use God's name in a bad way, boast or insult other people. James reminds us that we need to control our communication. If not, it *"spreads its evil through our whole body"* (verse 6b).

We have good communication when we praise God, pray, encourage and comfort other people, teach from God's Word and share the Good News about Jesus.

How will you communicate today? Ask God to help your communication be good. —**Diana French**

"We use our tongues to praise our Lord and Father, but then we curse people who are created in God's likeness. These praises and curses come from the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, this should not happen." James 3:9-10

PRAYER: Dear God, I want my communication to please and honor You today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Minor Prophets (1)

Bible Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4



With this devotion, we begin a series based on the Minor Prophets in the Old Testament.

The Minor Prophets are the last 12 books in the Old Testament — Hosea through Malachi. These books of prophecy are called “minor” because they are shorter in length than the Major Prophets books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel and Daniel. All of these books of prophecy are important to help us understand God’s message.

All of the Minor Prophets books have the same basic message: 1) An explanation of sin and judgment; 2) A warning about God’s judgment; 3) A call for repentance; and 4) A promise of future redemption.

It is important for us to study these 12 books. They help us understand how much God hates sin and how much He loves us. Our Bible verses for today remind us that long ago, God spoke through His prophets. But now God speaks to us through His Son, Jesus Christ. Obey and follow Him today! —**Jo Krueger**

“In the past God spoke to our people through the prophets. He spoke to them many times and in many different ways.” Hebrews 1:1

PRAYER: God, thank You for Your Word which shows me how to live. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Minor Prophets (2)

Bible Reading: Hosea 3:1-5



The book of Hosea is a sad book. God told His prophet, Hosea, to marry a prostitute named Gomer. After they were married, Gomer committed adultery with other men. But God told Hosea that he should accept Gomer back as his wife and love her.

Why did God ask Hosea to do this? Verse 1b of our Bible Reading today gives us the answer to that question. God said to Hosea, *“Gomer has many lovers, but you must continue loving her. Do this because it is an example of the Lord’s love for Israel.”*

It must have been hard for Hosea to forgive his wife and welcome her back. But God wants us to be like Hosea and show forgiveness to others, even when they sin and hurt us. That’s how God is with us. He forgives us of our sins and welcomes us as His children.

Think about God’s forgiveness today. And remember to forgive other people. —**Jo Krueger**

“Yes, if you forgive others for the wrongs they do to you, then your Father in heaven will also forgive your wrongs. But if you don’t forgive others, then your Father in heaven will not forgive the wrongs you do.”
Matthew 6:14

PRAYER: Father, thank You for teaching me about forgiveness. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Minor Prophets (3)

Bible Reading: Joel 1:1-4



The book of Joel tells the message that he received from God. Joel shared this message with God's people, the Israelites. The Israelites were sinning and not obeying God. God wanted them to know that He would punish them if they did not repent.

In our Bible verses, Joel talked about locusts that would come and destroy the crops. Joel may have been using this example to talk about an enemy army that would come and destroy the land. Joel 2:2a says, *"It will be a dark, gloomy day. It will be a dark and cloudy day. At sunrise you will see the army spread over the mountains."*

Later, Joel told the people that God wanted them to change. In Joel 2:12a, God said, *"Now come back to me with all your heart."* God was very patient with the Israelites. He punished them, but He did not destroy them as a nation.

God is very patient with you, too. He wants you to stop sinning and be close to Him. Seek God with all your heart today! —**Ty Jenkins***

"Come back to the Lord your God. He is kind and merciful. He does not become angry quickly. He has great love." Joel 2:13b

PRAYER: Dear God, thank You for loving me and forgiving me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Monday, July 10

Minor Prophets (4)

Bible Reading: Amos 2:6-16



Amos was a shepherd from the city of Tekoa. He was probably a poor man. Even though Amos was a poor shepherd, God used him to share what was going to happen to the people of Israel.

The Israelites had done many bad things against God. One of their sins was taking advantage of poor people and oppressing them. In Amos 1:3, God said that he would punish the people for their crimes.

God also said through Amos that He would punish the Philistines and other people who oppressed the Israelites. Throughout both the Old and New Testaments, God says again and again that we should help people who are helpless.

You can help people who are helpless, too. Look for opportunities today to serve others, especially those people who are helpless. Perhaps you can help widows and orphans. God will use you to bless and care for these people. —**Chad P. Entinger***

"The Lord is your God...He defends the widows and orphans. He loves even the strangers living among us. He gives them food and clothes." Deuteronomy 10:17-18

PRAYER: Dear God, give me opportunities to serve people in need. In Jesus' name. Amen.

37

Tuesday, July 11

Minor Prophets (5)

Bible Reading: Obadiah 1-7



The Edomites were relatives of the Israelites. God used the prophet Obadiah to

warn the Edomites that He would judge them for what they had done to the Israelites.

God was not pleased with the Edomites. They were proud people. When the Israelites were being attacked by the Babylonians, the Edomites refused to help them. Verse 10 of Obadiah says, *“You will be covered with shame because you were very cruel to your brother Jacob.”* Obadiah’s message was that God would destroy the Edomites.

When we do unkind things to other people, we do not have Jesus’ love in us. In John 13:34-35 Jesus said, *“I give you a new command: Love each other. You must love each other just as I loved you. All people will know that you are my followers if you love each other.”*

Jesus wants us to be humble and love other people. Follow Jesus’ teaching today. Look for ways to show His love to others. —**Paul Dymoke***

“Dear friends, we should love each other, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has become God’s child. And so everyone who loves knows God.” 1 John 4:7

PRAYER: Father, help me to love my brothers and sisters today. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Minor Prophets (6)

Bible Reading: Jonah 1:7-17



Our verses today tell us that God told Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh. God wanted Jonah to tell the

people in Nineveh to stop sinning. But Jonah did not want to obey God. So Jonah got on a boat *“going to the faraway city of Tarshish”* (Jonah 1:3b).

God caused a great storm on the sea. The people in the boat thought they would drown. Jonah told them, *“I know I did wrong — that is why the storm came on the sea”* (verse 12b). So the men threw Jonah into the sea. *“When Jonah fell into the sea, the Lord chose a very big fish to swallow Jonah. He was in the stomach of the fish for three days and three nights”* (verse 17).

Jonah was sorry he had disobeyed God. He prayed to God, and *“the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out of its stomach onto the dry land”* (Jonah 2:10). Then Jonah obeyed God and went to Nineveh.

Maybe you are like Jonah. Pray to God and ask Him to forgive you for disobeying Him. God loves you, and He will forgive you! —**Bianca Carrigan***

“When my followers call to me...I will rescue them and honor them.”

Psalm 91:15

PRAYER: Dear God, please forgive me when I disobey You. Help me obey You today. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Minor Prophets (7)

Bible Reading: Micah 5:1-3



Micah was a prophet from the town of Moresheth. God gave Micah different

visions and prophecies to share. One of these prophecies is found in verse 2 of our Bible Reading. *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, are the smallest town in Judah. Your family is almost too small to count, but the ‘Ruler of Israel’ will come from you to rule for me.”* What happened about 700 years later?

We find that answer in the New Testament. King Herod asked the Jewish teachers where the Christ (Jesus) would be born. In Matthew 2:5a, they answered, *“In the town of Bethlehem in Judea.”* How did they know the answer? Matthew 2:5b-6 shows us that they shared the same words Micah had written!

God is amazing! He knew 700 years before His Son, Jesus, was born that Jesus would be the “Ruler of Israel” and that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. Continue to trust God. You can believe and know that God will do what He says He will do! —**Chad P. Entinger***

“You know that the Lord your God has not failed in any of his promises. He has kept every promise that he has made to us.” Joshua 23:14b

PRAYER: God, thank You for keeping Your promises. I trust You completely. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Minor Prophets (8)

Bible Reading: Nahum 1:1-8

Nahum was a prophet. God gave Nahum a vision about what would happen to the city of Nineveh.



Nineveh was a wicked city. The people in Nineveh sinned and rebelled against God. They worshiped false gods and made plans against God. So God was angry with the people in Nineveh.

Nahum told the people that God would destroy their city. Verse 2 of our Bible Reading says, *“The Lord is a jealous God. The Lord punishes the guilty, and he is very angry. The Lord punishes his enemies, and he stays angry with them.”* Nahum’s prophecy came true. Later, God destroyed the city of Nineveh.

Are you like the people of Nineveh? Have you sinned and rebelled against God? God loves you and wants you to obey and follow Him. Confess your sins to God. Ask Him to forgive you and help you follow Him every day. —**Ty Jenkins***

“But if we confess our sins, God will forgive us. We can trust God to do this. He always does what is right. He will make us clean from all the wrong things we have done.”
1 John 1:9

PRAYER: Dear God, I confess my sins to You. Thank You for forgiving me. I want to always follow and obey You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Minor Prophets (9)

Bible Reading: Habakkuk 3:17-19



The book of Habakkuk is the only minor prophet book that doesn't have a prophecy

from God to His people. Instead, the book is about Habakkuk's complaints to God!

Many evil things were happening in Judah. People were violent and stole from each other. So Habakkuk complained that God was not helping him. God told Habakkuk that He would send enemies to take over the land and punish the people.

Did Habakkuk stop complaining? No, he complained even more to God. Habakkuk was upset that the people who would take over the land were even more evil than the Israelites. God told Habakkuk again that He would punish His enemies for their sins.

Finally Habakkuk stopped complaining and praised God. In our Bible verses for today, Habakkuk said that he was happy that God was his Savior. Don't complain today. Instead, give your worries to God. Then thank Him and praise Him for what He has done for you. —**Matthew Poe***

*"But I will still be glad in the Lord and rejoice in God my Savior."
Habakkuk 3:18*

PRAYER: Father, thank You for always being with me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Minor Prophets (10)

Bible Reading: Zephaniah 1:1-3



The Bible tells us that in the beginning God made the earth and everything on it — fish, land animals, flying animals and people.

But in our Bible verses today, Zephaniah shared God's message of destruction. God said, *"I will destroy all the people and all the animals...I will destroy the evil people and everything that makes them sin. I will remove all people from the earth"* (verse 3b).

Zephaniah warned the people that God would punish them for their sin. They were constantly disobeying God, but they never repented and asked God to forgive them.

People today are the same as they were when Zephaniah shared God's message. They learn about God's message of love and salvation, but they refuse to stop sinning. God wants everyone to repent and ask for forgiveness.

God has been patient with us, but His judgment is coming. Repent today and obey God. —**Paul Dymoke***

*"But God is being patient with you. He doesn't want anyone to be lost. He wants everyone to change their ways and stop sinning."
2 Peter 3:9b*

PRAYER: Dear God, thank You for being patient with me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Minor Prophets (11)

Bible Reading: Haggai 1:12-15



King Solomon built a beautiful temple in Jerusalem. But enemy armies destroyed the

temple. Later, God told His people to build another temple. The book of Haggai is about God encouraging these people as they rebuilt the temple.

The Israelites feared God and respected Him. But when they started rebuilding the temple, they were discouraged. Why? Because they felt they couldn't build a temple as wonderful as Solomon's temple had been. But God told the people that He would be with them and help them. In verse 13 of our Bible Reading for today, God told the people, *"I am with you!"*

Maybe you are like the Israelites. You are facing many problems. And you are discouraged because you are not sure how you will solve your problems. Don't be discouraged! Remember that God is always with you. He will give you strength.

—**Bianca Carrigan***

*"Be strong and be brave. Don't be afraid of those people because the Lord your God is with you. He will not fail you or leave you."
Deuteronomy 31:6*

PRAYER: Dear Father, thank You for encouraging me when I am discouraged. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Minor Prophets (12)

Bible Reading: Zechariah 1:1-6



The book of Zechariah is about the messages and visions that God gave to the prophet Zechariah. In our Bible Reading, God reminded Zechariah that his ancestors, the Israelites, had disobeyed God and turned away from Him.

In verse 3b God said, *"Come back to me, and I will come back to you."* Then God talked about how the Israelites had refused to come back to Him. So God punished them and sent them away from the land of Israel. Finally the Israelites repented and *"came back to God"* (verse 6b).

There are times in our lives when we may become distracted and turn away from God. Maybe we become involved in some sin. Or maybe we are just so busy with things in life that we don't have time for God. During those times, God reminds us that we need to come back to Him. When we return to God, He forgives us and blesses us.

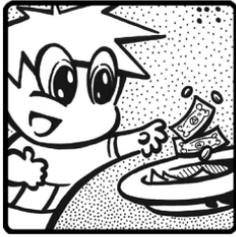
Think about your life today. Are you far away from God? Turn back to God and ask Him to help you stay close to him. —**Jo Krueger**

*"Come back to your right way of thinking and stop sinning."
1 Corinthians 15:34a*

PRAYER: Dear God, I know You love me. Please forgive me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Minor Prophets (13)

Bible Reading: Malachi 3:10-12



I watched a father with his child at a swimming pool. The father stood in the pool and urged

the child to jump into the water. The father assured his child that he would catch him and he would be safe. We can have that same kind of experience with God. God says that He will provide for us. There are many examples in the Bible of God taking care of His people. But often we are afraid to trust God. We try to do things by ourselves instead of depending on Him.

In our Bible Reading today, God challenges us to test Him as a provider. In verse 10b God says, *“Test me! If you do these things, I will surely bless you.”* God is like the parent in the pool, and we are like the child who wants to jump in. God wants us to trust Him. When we trust Him, He will take care of us and give us many blessings.

I challenge you to trust God with your money. Financially support your local church or a mission organization. God will provide for you and bless you. —**Matthew Poe***

“And God can give you more blessings than you need, and you will always have plenty of everything. You will have enough to give to every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8

PRAYER: God, I want to trust You more! In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Boaz

Bible Reading: Ruth 2:1-13

One day I took my dog to the vet. On the way, my car suddenly stopped. I called a tow truck. The driver of the truck allowed me and my dog to ride in the truck with him. Friends came to the garage and took us home. The truck driver and my friends were very kind to me.



Boaz was a man who showed kindness to other people. He saw a woman gathering grain from his field. This woman was Ruth. Boaz protected Ruth and provided for her and her mother-in-law, Naomi. Later, Boaz and Ruth were married. Boaz and Ruth had a son named Obed. Many years later, Jesus was born from this family line.

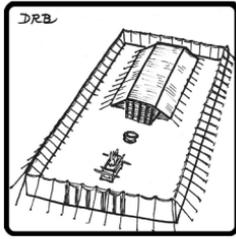
It is very important that we be kind to other people. There are many ways we can show kindness — share a meal with a needy person, visit someone who is in prison or help provide food and shelter to people who are homeless. Ask God to show you people today who need some kindness. —**Bonnie Hall**

“Then Ruth said, ‘You are very kind to me, sir. I am only a servant. I am not even equal to one of your servants, but you have said kind words to me and comforted me.’” Ruth 2:13

PRAYER: Help me, Lord, to show kindness to people I meet today. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Bible Buildings (1)

Bible Reading: Exodus 25:1-9



God wanted Moses and the Israelites to build a special place where the Israelites could

worship God. Some people call this building the tabernacle. Our Bible verses for today call it the Holy Tent.

God told Moses, *"The people will build a holy place for me. Then I can live among them"* (verse 8). God wanted a place where He could live among the Israelites. This holy tent would also be a place where the Israelites could offer sacrifices to God.

Our Bible verses also tell us that Moses asked the Israelites to bring gold, silver, yarn, linen, wood, oil, spices and other materials to help build the holy tent. In this way, the Israelites were an important part of the construction of the holy tent.

As Christians, we don't have to go to a special place to worship God. We can worship Him any place at any time. God's Holy Spirit lives in us and works through us every day.

—**Jo Krueger**

"...true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth...God is spirit. So the people who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:23b-24

PRAYER: Father, You are so wonderful! Thank You for giving me Your Holy Spirit to guide me each day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Bible Buildings (2)

Bible Reading: Judges 16:23-30



Samson was a judge of Israel. God's Spirit worked in Samson, and He blessed Samson with

special physical strength. Judges 15:15 tells us that *"Samson found a jawbone of a dead donkey and killed 1000 Philistine men with it."*

Later, Samson disobeyed God, so God's Spirit left him. The Philistines captured Samson and put him in prison. Our Bible verses today tell us that the Philistines had a party in the temple of their false god. They brought Samson to the temple so they could make fun of him. Samson asked God to give him strength one more time. Then Samson *"took hold of the two columns in the center of the temple. Then he pushed as hard as he could, and the temple fell on the rulers and everyone in it"* (verses 29b and 30b).

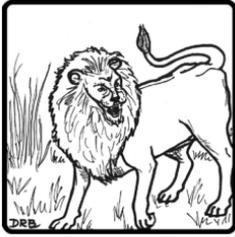
God's power helped Samson destroy the temple to the false god. God will be with us, too, as we try to stay away from evil things in the world. Keep close to God today and depend on Him. —**Jo Krueger**

"Yes, it is God who is working in you. He helps you want to do what pleases him, and he gives you the power to do it."
Philippians 2:13

PRAYER: God, I know that You will be with me today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Bible Buildings (3)

Bible Reading: Daniel 6:6-11



The building that we will talk about today is the house where Daniel lived. Daniel was a young Jewish man who was taken captive and brought to Babylon.

Babylon was a place where the people did not worship God. But Daniel loved God and continued to follow and obey Him. We do not know anything about Daniel's house, but we do know that it was a place where Daniel prayed to God.

King Darius made a law that required every person to only pray to him. The punishment for disobeying this law was to be thrown into a lions' den. Daniel knew about the law, but he did not stop praying to God. Verse 10 of our Bible Reading tells us that Daniel *"went to his house to pray...Daniel bowed down on his knees and prayed just as he always had done."* Daniel was thrown into a lions' den, but God kept him safe.

I hope that you are faithful like Daniel was. Never stop praying to God. He will be with you and protect you. —**Jo Krueger**

"God helps and saves people. He does amazing miracles in heaven and on earth. He saved Daniel from the lions." Daniel 6:27

PRAYER: Dear God, I want to always obey and serve You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Bible Buildings (4)

Bible Reading: Luke 2:41-51



The Jews worshiped God at the Temple building in Jerusalem. It was the custom for Jewish families to go to Jerusalem every year to celebrate the Passover festival.

Our Bible verses today tell us about the time when Jesus was 12 years old. He went with his parents to the Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus' family made the trip from Nazareth and probably traveled in a large group of people. After the Passover was finished, Jesus' parents traveled one day before they noticed that Jesus was not with them. So they went back to Jerusalem to search for Jesus.

Joseph and Mary found Jesus sitting in the Temple with the religious teachers. When Joseph and Mary asked Jesus why He was still in the temple, Jesus answered, *"You should have known that I must be where my Father's work is"* (verse 49b).

The most important thing to Jesus was serving God. Love and serve God today. —**Jo Krueger**

"As Jesus grew taller, he continued to grow in wisdom. God was pleased with him and so were the people who knew him." Luke 2:52

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, I want to be like Jesus and please You today. In His name. Amen.

Bible Buildings (5)

Bible Reading: Matthew 6:5-8



Yesterday we talked about the Temple in Jerusalem. The Temple was the most important

place of worship for the Jews. But many towns had synagogues as well. Synagogues were places where the Jews gathered to worship, pray and fellowship.

Jesus talked about synagogues in our Bible verses for today. Jesus taught His disciples about prayer. In verse 5a Jesus said, *“When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites. They love to stand in the synagogues and on the street corners and pray loudly. They want people to see them.”* Jesus was talking about people who pray fancy prayers so they can impress other people.

Then Jesus told His disciples how they should pray. *“But when you pray, you should go into your room and close the door. Then pray to your Father”* (verse 6a). Jesus wants us to be humble and sincere when we pray to God, not proud and boastful.

Be humble and respectful when you pray to God today. —**Jo Krueger**

“Don’t worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks for what you have.” Philipians 4:6

PRAYER: Father, You are so wonderful! Thank You for paying attention to my prayers. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Bible Buildings (6)

Bible Reading: Matthew 7:24-27



In Matthew, chapter 7, Jesus told a story about building a house. First, He talked about a wise man who built his house on a rock. When storms came, this house stood strong. Then Jesus talked about a foolish man who built his house on the sand. When the rains and winds came, his house was destroyed.

Jesus did not tell this story to teach us how to build our houses with wood and stone. He was talking about our spiritual lives. If we read and obey God’s Word, we will have a strong spiritual foundation for our lives. When we face bad times, we can depend on God to give us strength. But if we ignore God’s Word, we will be spiritually weak.

I hope that you want to be like the wise man and build your life on God and His Word. Read and study your Bible today. Take time to pray to God. Fellowship with other Christians and give thanks to God for all He has done for you. —**Jo Krueger**

“It rained hard, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house. But it did not fall because it was built on rock.” Matthew 7:25

PRAYER: Lord, thank You for Your Word. I want it to be the foundation of my life. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Bible Buildings (7)

Bible Reading: Luke 10:38-42



God is pleased when we use our houses or apartments to show hospitality to other people.

That's what happened in our Bible verses today. Mary and Martha were sisters. They lived in the town of Bethany. One time when Jesus and His disciples were traveling through Bethany, Martha welcomed Jesus into her home. She worked hard to take care of Jesus.

It is important that we show hospitality to other people. But the most important lesson from these verses is that we should not be distracted from following and learning from Jesus. Verse 39b tells us about Martha's sister Mary. *"Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to him teach."* Martha wanted Mary to help her. But Jesus said, *"Martha, Martha, you are getting worried and upset about too many things"* (verse 41b). Jesus wanted Martha to focus on Him.

As you go through this day, don't get worried and upset about things you must do. Instead, focus on Jesus and His Word. —**Jo Krueger**

"Mary has made the right choice, and it will never be taken away from her." Luke 10:42b

PRAYER: Dear God, thank You for loving and forgiving me. Help me to focus on Jesus today. In His name. Amen.

Bible Buildings (8)

Bible Reading: Luke 12:16-21



Farmers use their barns to give shelter to animals, store their crops and keep

their farm equipment. Our Bible Reading today is another story that Jesus told His disciples. This story is about a rich man. His land produced so well that he didn't have enough space to store his crops. So the man decided to tear down his barns and build bigger barns. But God said to the man (verse 20), *"Foolish man! Tonight you will die. So what about the things you prepared for yourself? Who will get those things now?"*

Did Jesus mean that people should not build barns? No! In this story, Jesus was talking about people who are greedy and always want more. We should not spend our time trying to get more money and things. Instead, we should use our time building our relationship with God and doing good things for others.

Thank God today for helping you wait patiently for Jesus. —**Jo Krueger**

"This is how it will be for anyone who saves things only for himself. To God that person is not rich."
Luke 12:21

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, I want to focus on You instead of focusing on things in this world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Bible Buildings (9)

Bible Reading: Romans 16:3-5



Paul wrote many letters to churches to encourage them. Often Paul closed his letters by sharing his

greetings with other Christians in that city.

In our Bible verses today, Paul sent his greetings to Priscilla and Aquila. *"They were tentmakers, the same as Paul, so he stayed with them and worked with them"* (Acts 18:3). In verse 5 of our Bible Reading, we learn that Priscilla and Aquila were also willing to open their home for church meetings. Verse 5a says, *"Also, give greetings to the church that meets in their house."*

Many Christians today are meeting in church buildings to worship God and fellowship with other Christians. But we need to remember that the church is not a building. The church is the people who follow and obey God. Christians can meet anywhere to worship God.

Take time today to thank God for Christians around the world. —**Jo Krueger**

"The churches in Asia send you their greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you in the name of the Lord. Also the church that meets in their house sends greetings."

1 Corinthians 16:19

PRAYER: Dear God, thank You for my many brothers and sisters in Christ. In His name. Amen.

Bible Buildings (10)

Bible Reading: Acts 28:16, 30-31



Today we will talk about our last Bible building. Acts, chapter 28, tells us that Paul

was a prisoner in Rome. Paul was arrested and taken to Rome so he could appear before the leader of the Roman Empire.

While Paul was in Rome, he was allowed to live in a house. *"But a soldier stayed with him to guard him"* (verse 16b). Paul was a prisoner, but he didn't allow his circumstances to stop him from telling other people about Jesus.

Maybe you think that you cannot tell other people about Jesus because you have financial problems or a disability or family troubles. Even though Paul was guarded all the time, he used his circumstances as an opportunity to share the Good News of salvation.

God can use you to spread the message about Jesus through every situation you face today. Depend on Him to help you share the news!

—**Jo Krueger**

"Praise God...He can use the Good News that I teach to make you strong. It is the message about Jesus Christ that I tell people."
Romans 16:25a

PRAYER: Father, please use me today to share the Good News about Jesus with someone. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jesus' Work

Bible Reading: Matthew 11:28-30



In our Bible verses today, Jesus talked about people who are tired and have heavy burdens.

Jesus said that these people should come to Him and He would give them rest.

In verses 29 and 30 Jesus said, *“Accept my teaching. Learn from me. I am gentle and humble in spirit. And you will be able to get some rest. Yes, the teaching that I ask you to accept is easy. The load I give you to carry is light.”* What work was Jesus talking about?

Jesus talked about our work in Mark 16:15. Jesus told His followers, *“Go everywhere in the world. Tell the Good News to everyone.”* The Good News is that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with Him forever. God gave His only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and take the punishment for our sins.

I want to accept Jesus' burden today and tell someone the Good News! Won't you join me in sharing this wonderful news? —**Donna J. Howard***

“Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. God gave his Son so that every person that believes in him would not be lost, but have life forever.” John 3:16

PRAYER: Dear Lord, I will accept Your work and tell someone about You today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

God's Word

Bible Reading: Psalm 119:86-90

Mark was a college student. He heard that some students on campus were planning to burn Bibles. Mark was a Christian. So this news upset him.



Mark talked to some other Christians. They decided to do something that would honor God and His Word. They developed a plan to read the Bible publicly on the college campus for twenty-four hours. Mark was one of the students who participated in reading the Bible. When the time came for the Bible burning to happen, no one showed up! God's Word had remained strong.

Many times through history people have tried to destroy God's Word. But it will never happen. Verse 89 of our Bible Reading today says, *“Lord, your word continues forever.”*

Even today, people are trying to stop God's Word. Remember to read the Bible today and share its message with others. —**Naomi Mezo**

“The grass dries up and dies, and the flower falls to the ground. But the word of the Lord lasts forever. And that word is the Good News that was told to you.” 1 Peter 1:24b-25

PRAYER: God, thank You for the Bible. I want to study it every day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Maps

Bible Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-17



This morning I stopped to buy gasoline for my car. As I was paying the cashier, I saw a small

rack with paper road maps.

Most people today don't use paper road maps. Instead, they have a GPS (global positioning system) in their car that helps them find the way to their destination. I don't have a GPS in my car, but I have been in cars that have a GPS. And I have learned one thing — the GPS is not always right. Sometimes it guides you on the wrong road!

When my life here on earth is finished, I want to live forever in heaven with God. There is no road map or GPS to show me how to get to heaven. But God has given us His Word, the Bible. In the Bible we can learn about Jesus and His death on the cross. And we can always trust the Bible. It is never wrong!

Our Bible verses remind us of how important the Bible is. Read it and learn how to live forever with God. —**Jo Krueger**

"These Scriptures are able to make you wise. And that wisdom leads to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ." 2 Timothy 3:15b

PRAYER: Dear God, thank You for giving me Your Word. I know that it shows me the way to live forever with You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

God Gives Peace

Bible Reading: Philippians 4:4-9

I am a person who likes peace. I want to have a time of peace every day when I can study the Bible and pray. I also like to keep peace among my family and friends.



But sometimes I become so busy trying to make peace that I forget to let God guide me. I try to solve people's problems with my own ideas instead of depending upon God and His Word to help me.

In our Bible verses for today, Paul tells us how to help make peace. *"Don't worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks for what you have. And because you belong to Christ Jesus, God's peace will stand guard over all your thoughts and feelings. His peace can do this far better than our human minds"* (verses 6-7).

Don't get caught up in people's ideas and opinions about peace today. Instead, focus on God's words. He will protect you and fill you with His peace. —**Bill Elliott, Jr.**

"I pray that God who gives hope will fill you with much joy and peace as you trust in him. Then you will have more and more hope, and it will flow out of you by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

PRAYER: Father, thank You for giving me Your peace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Patience

Bible Reading: Galatians 5:22-24



I received a beautiful plant for my birthday. The instructions said that it could be planted

outside. I enjoyed the plant in my office for a couple of weeks, and then my husband planted it outside.

The next spring, the plant had lots of beautiful leaves. I waited and waited for buds to appear. But nothing happened. I waited longer, but there were no flowers. Finally, I told my husband to dig up the plant and throw it away. But my husband told me to be patient and wait a little longer.

A couple of months later I noticed that there were many buds on the plant. Soon the plant was filled with beautiful flowers. I felt bad that I had been impatient. This experience taught me to be more patient with things and with people.

In our Bible verses today, Paul says that patience is one of the good things that the Holy Spirit helps us develop in our lives. May God give you patience today. —**Jo Krueger**

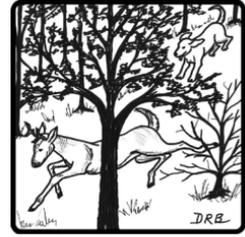
"But the fruit that the Spirit produces in a person's life is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23a

PRAYER: Dear Father, thank you for helping me be patient with people that I meet today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Focus on God (1)

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Several years ago I had a dog that liked to chase other animals. Often she would try to catch a squirrel or a bird or a rabbit.



One day I was riding my horse. I took my dog with me. She saw a deer and started to chase it. I called to her and told her to stop. But she did not listen to me. She ran farther and farther away from me. I was worried. We were several miles from home. I was afraid she would become lost. My dog did not think about being lost. She only thought about chasing the deer.

God does not want us to sin. But sometimes we ignore God and His Word. Then we make wrong choices. We forget that what we are doing is wrong. Our Bible verses today remind us to pay attention to God and not let anything stop us from obeying Him.

I do not want to be like my dog. She focused on the deer instead of obeying me. I want to focus on God and obeying His Word, the Bible. Then I will be sure to please God.

—**Rachel Burkum**

"So, my dear brothers and sisters, stand strong. Don't let anything change you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord."

1 Corinthians 15:58a

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, I want to focus on obeying You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Focus on God (2)

Bible Reading: Psalm 19:8-14



Yesterday I told you that my dog focused on the wrong thing. I was afraid she would become lost if she chased the deer too far away.

I quickly followed my dog until I was in front of her. I was able to slow her down and block her path. Finally, she gave up chasing the deer. Then I was worried that she would run off again. So I picked her up and carried her home.

Sometimes we do things that are wrong. Then God is disappointed. But He does not stop loving us. God cares about us and wants to help us. When we realize that we are doing something wrong, we need to stop doing it and ask God to forgive us. When this happens, God “picks us up” like I picked up my dog. God will always lead us in the right direction. Verse 8b of our Bible Reading tells us that God’s “*commands are good. They show people the right way to live.*”

Are you going the right way today? Let God show you the right way. —**Rachel Burkum**

“Try to get wisdom and understanding. Don’t forget my teaching or ignore what I say.”
Proverbs 4:5

PRAYER: God, thank You for showing me the right way. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Monday, August 7

Grace

Bible Reading: Romans 5:1-11



Grace happens when God gives us things we don’t deserve — like forgiveness and eternal life.

God doesn’t only offer us grace because we follow and obey Jesus as our Savior. God offers us grace even before we know Jesus. Verse 8 of our Bible Reading says, “*But Christ died for us while we were still sinners, and by this God showed how much he loves us.*”

After we become a Christian, God continues to offer us His grace. That reminds me of a long train I watched the other day. Car after car came speeding past me. It seemed that the train cars would never end. God’s grace is like that. He helps us with every new situation we face. His grace just keeps coming and coming. It never ends!

God loves you. He wants to forgive your sins and help you live for Him. I encourage you to accept God’s never-ending grace today!

—**Gayle Thorn**

“But the Lord said, ‘My grace is all you need. Only when you are weak can everything be done completely by my power.’”
2 Corinthians 12:9a

PRAYER: Dear God, thank You for Your grace that saves me and encourages me to follow You every day. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Wedding

Bible Reading: Revelation 19:7-9



foods.

Weddings are wonderful events. Often the wedding ceremony is followed by a fancy meal with special

Our Bible verses for today talk about a great wedding that will happen when Jesus comes again. Who is getting married? The Lamb, Jesus, will marry His bride, the church. The church is made up of Christians. So at this great wedding, we who are Christians will be joined forever with Jesus!

You are invited to be at this wedding. God loves you and wants you to believe in Jesus and obey His commands. Ephesians 5:27 tells us, *“Christ died so that he could give the church to himself like a bride in all her beauty. He died so that the church could be holy and without fault, with no evil or sin or any other thing wrong with it.”*

You don't want to miss this wonderful wedding! Love God and accept His free gift of salvation through Jesus. —**Donna Valverde-Hummel***

“Christ is the head of the church. Christ is the Savior of the church, which is his body. The church serves under Christ.” Ephesians 5:23b

PRAYER: Father, thank You for inviting us to share in Your glory and live with You forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lesson from Weeds

Bible Reading: Hebrews 12:1-3

I went on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic. While I was there, God taught me a valuable lesson.



The front yard of the missionary house had rocks instead of grass. There were also many weeds. Some were big, and some were small. The small weeds easily came out of the ground when I pulled them. But the larger weeds were deeply rooted in the ground. These weeds required more time and work to remove.

As I was working in the yard, I realized that weeds are like sins. Some sins are easy for us to stop doing. But other sins require time and patience to remove from our lives. In our Bible Reading for today, we learn that we *“should remove from our lives anything that would slow us down and the sin that so often makes us fall”* (verse 1b). I needed to remove the weeds from the yard. In the same way, we need to remove from our lives the things that keep us from serving God.

Through His Word, God will help you live each day for Him. —**Elissa Poe***

“We must never stop looking to Jesus. He is the leader of our faith, and he is the one who makes our faith complete.” Hebrews 12:2a

PRAYER: God, thank You for getting rid of the sins in my life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Rahab

Bible Reading: Joshua 2:8-14



If you read Jesus' family history in the first chapter of Matthew, you will notice the name of

Rahab. It may seem strange that this woman is listed in Jesus' family line.

We learn about Rahab in Joshua, chapter 2. Joshua sent spies to look at the city of Jericho. Joshua 2:1b tells us that *"the men went to the city of Jericho and stayed at the house of a prostitute named Rahab."* Rahab was not an Israelite, but she believed in God. In our Bible Reading, Rahab told the spies, *"the Lord your God rules the heavens above and the earth below"* (verse 11b).

Rahab hid the spies and kept them safe. Later, when God destroyed the city of Jericho, Rahab and her family were taken away from the city and allowed to live among the Israelites.

No matter what we have done in our lives, God can still use us for His glory. We just need to depend on Him and faithfully obey Him. — **Bonnie Hall**

"And Rahab, the prostitute, welcomed the Israelite spies like friends. And because of her faith, she was not killed with the ones who refused to obey." Hebrews 11:31

PRAYER: Lord, thank You for directing my life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Worry and Fear (1)

Bible Reading: Psalm 46:1-11



This is the first of six devotions about worry and fear. It is hard to separate worry and fear. Often when I am afraid, I worry, too. For example, when I am afraid that something bad might happen to me or my family, I begin to worry.

When I was growing up, my family worried all the time. My mom and dad worried about having money to pay the bills. My brother, sisters and I were afraid of people at school who teased us. And we worried about not having friends.

Now I am an adult. I know God is in control. I know I should not worry. But it is hard to stop worrying. Our Bible verses today remind us to depend on God. *"God is our protection and source of strength. He is always ready to help us in times of trouble"* (verse 1).

God created the world, and He made you, too. No matter what happens to you today, God will help you. And God will encourage you by giving you His strength and peace. — **Pam Davis**

"The Lord Most High is awesome. He is the great King over all the earth." Psalm 47:2

PRAYER: Dear Father, thank You for always taking care of me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Worry and Fear (2)

Bible Reading: Psalm 55:20-23



Many times we worry about what others think or say about us. It really hurts us when

our friends lie about us or spread gossip. I know people who cannot sleep at night because they are worrying about their reputation.

Our Bible verses today have good advice for people who worry. Verse 22 says, *“Give your worries to the Lord, and he will care for you. He will never let those who are good be defeated.”* The devil is happy when we are afraid and worried. He wants to take away our peace and happiness. The devil doesn’t want us to trust God.

God loves us and always wants the best for us. When we give our worries to Him, we can be happy and peaceful again. When people hurt us or say bad things about us, God will be with us and help us be strong.

Are you worried or afraid today? Trust God to take care of you and fill you with His love and peace. —

Pam Davis

“Don’t worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks for what you have.”
Philippians 4:6

PRAYER: Lord, please forgive me for worrying. I choose to trust You every day. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Worry and Fear (3)

Bible Reading: Joshua 1:6-9



When we have problems, we have two choices. We can become afraid and discouraged.

Or we can be strong and look to God for help.

Our Bible Reading today tells us about Joshua. Moses was ready to die. God had chosen Joshua to be the new leader of the Israelites. Moses told Joshua, *“...be strong and brave. Don’t be afraid, because the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go”* (verse 9b). Leading the Israelites was a big job. Joshua could have hung his head and worried about what he would do. Instead, Joshua depended on God and led the Israelites into the land God had given to them.

The Bible is filled with examples of other people who trusted God — Abraham, Moses, David and Paul. When we trust God, He will support us and make us strong. Depend on Him today! God has promised to be with you and help you. —**Pam Davis**

“Be strong and be brave. Don’t be afraid of those people because the Lord your God is with you. He will not fail you or leave you.”
Deuteronomy 31:6

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, I need You to be with me today. Thank You for keeping me strong. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Worry and Fear (4)

Bible Reading: Matthew 6:25-27



Some people wake up every morning and start to worry about what will happen that day or

what will happen in the future. When our minds are filled with worry and fear, we cannot enjoy the blessings that God gives us each day.

Maybe you woke up this morning and thought about today. You started worrying about having money to buy groceries. Or maybe you worried about whether you can provide warm clothes for your family. Jesus knows that we worry, and He wants us to trust God. That's why He said in our Bible verses, "...don't worry about the things you need to live — what you will eat, drink, or wear" (verse 25a). Jesus also said in verse 27, "You cannot add any time to your life by worrying about it." Worrying doesn't help solve our problems. It is a waste of time.

God knows all about us. He wants us to talk to Him about our worries and fears. God wants us to read about His promises in the Bible. When we depend on Him, He will give us His peace. —**Pam Davis**

"So don't worry about tomorrow. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Tomorrow will have its own worries." Matthew 6:34

PRAYER: God, thank You for Your peace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Worry and Fear (5)

Bible Reading: Philippians 4:4-7



In our Bible Reading today, Paul told his Christian friends in the city of Philippi to be filled with joy. Paul even repeated this, "I will say it again. Be filled with joy" (verse 4b). Paul wanted these Christians to be filled with joy that can only come from God. If our hearts and minds are filled with joy, there will be no room for worry and fear.

If I let God control my life, He gives me His joy and peace. I can easily become worried and fearful. But Paul says in verse 7 that God's peace will stand guard over all our thoughts and feelings. God is with me twenty-four hours every day. He helps me turn away thoughts of worry and fear.

Don't worry today. Instead, pray and ask God to guide you. And don't forget to thank Him for everything He has done for you. Then you can experience God's joy and peace today. —**Pam Davis**

"Don't worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks for what you have. And because you belong to Christ Jesus, God's peace will stand guard over all your thoughts and feelings." Philippians 4:6-7a

PRAYER: Father, thank You for giving me Your joy. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Worry and Fear (6)

Bible Reading: John 14:1-7



Sometimes a husband goes away to another city to look for a job. He tells his wife and children not to worry. He will find a new job and a place to live. Then he will come back for them.

In our Bible Reading, Jesus told His disciples that He was going away. Then they were worried and afraid. But Jesus told them He was leaving to prepare a new home for them. He said in verse 3, *“After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back. Then I will take you with me, so that you can be where I am.”*

Most people worry about things they have never seen. We have not seen the place that Jesus has prepared for us. But we should not be afraid of Jesus’ return and living forever with Him. We should look forward to the time when we will see Jesus and live with Him.

Jesus loves you and has made a special home for you. Don’t be afraid. Instead, trust Him and thank Him for His wonderful gift of salvation. —**Pam Davis**

“There are many rooms in my Father’s house. I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you.”
John 14:2

PRAYER: Dear Heavenly Father, I love and trust You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Satisfied

Bible Reading: Matthew 5:1-10



I love to watch hummingbirds. They dip their beaks into nectar in my hummingbird feeder. They don’t stay long. They fly off but will soon return to drink more nectar. Eventually they are satisfied.

Sometimes I am like a hummingbird. I keep my Bible open on my kitchen counter. As I work throughout the day, I return to the Bible and read some verses. Just as the hummingbird returns to the feeder, I return to God’s Word.

In our Bible Reading today, Jesus talked about blessings we receive from God. Verse 6 says, *“What great blessings there are for those who want to do right more than anything else. God will fully satisfy them.”* We study the Bible to learn how to do right things. When we do that, God feeds us through His words. The more we study, the more God fills us with His wisdom and understanding. This satisfies our spiritual hunger.

Take time to “feed” on God’s Word today! —**Donna J. Howard***

“Using the Scriptures, those who serve God will be prepared and will have everything they need to do every good work.”
2 Timothy 3:17

PRAYER: Dear Lord, I want to read and study Your Word today. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

God's Grace

Bible Reading: Romans 5:18-21



When I was young, I played a board game called Battleship. I tried to

move my battleships so that my opponent would not sink them. I wanted to win so much that sometimes I would cheat.

Cheating happens all the time in our world today — in schools, among athletes and in business. But when I became a Christian, I did not have to cheat any more. God gave me something so much better. He gave me grace!

The Bible talks a lot about grace. Here are some things that grace does for us: blesses us, saves us, encourages us, gives us victory over sin and gives us power. Verse 21a of our Bible Reading says, *“Sin once used death to rule us. But God gave us more of his grace so that grace could rule by making us right with him.”*

God's grace helps us be a winner all the time. Thank God for His amazing grace today! —**Bob La Forge**

“They were made right with God by his grace. This is a free gift. They were made right with God by being made free from sin through Jesus Christ.” Romans 3:24

PRAYER: Thank You, God, for Your grace which never stops. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Respect Your Parents

Bible Reading: Luke 2:41-52

Our Bible verses tell us about a time when Jesus was twelve years old. He and His family



celebrated the Passover in Jerusalem. When the celebration was over, Jesus' parents started for home. They thought Jesus was with friends or relatives who were traveling with them.

The next day, Jesus' parents realized that Jesus wasn't with them. Finally, they found Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem, talking with the religious leaders. Jesus asked his parents, *“Why did you have to look for me? You should have known that I must be where my Father's work is”* (verse 49).

Maybe Jesus thought it was silly for His parents to worry about him. But verse 51 tells us that Jesus *“went with them to Nazareth and obeyed them.”* Jesus respected His parents. God wants us to honor and respect our parents, too.

Obey God today by showing your parents that you love and respect them. —**Gayle Thorn**

“You must honor and respect your father and your mother. Do this so that you will have a full life in the land the Lord your God gives you.” Exodus 20:12

PRAYER: Father, I want to always respect and honor my parents. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Good News

Bible Reading: Galatians 1:6-10



Everyone likes good news — a baby will be born, their favorite team won the championship, someone who was sick has been healed. But the very best news of all is that Jesus died on the cross so that our sins can be forgiven!

In our Bible Reading today, Paul was worried about some of the Christians in the churches in Galatia. He had shared the Good News about Jesus with them. But now other people were teaching a false message and confusing these Christians. In verse 7 Paul said, *“There is no other message that is good news, but some people...want to change the Good News about Christ.”*

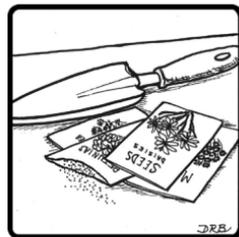
Many people in the world today preach a false message about Jesus. This false message may sound good, but it is not based on the Bible. Be careful to only follow Jesus’ teachings. Read and study the Bible so you will know God’s true message. Pray and ask God to help you follow and obey His truth. —**Jo Krueger**

“I said this before. Now I say it again: You have already accepted the Good News. Anyone who tells you another way to be saved should be condemned.” Galatians 1:9

PRAYER: Dear God, I want to only obey Your true message about Jesus and salvation through Him. In His name. Amen.

Weed Your Garden

Bible Reading: Hebrews 12:1-3



I love to garden. I planted two gardens in my backyard. These gardens are full of colorful plants that attract butterflies.

One day I realized that there were many weeds in my gardens. These weeds were keeping the flowers from growing. I had many excuses for not taking care of my gardens — I had been gone, it had rained, I was too tired. So I got down on my knees and weeded the gardens for several hours. Finally, I decided this job would have been easier if I had pulled the weeds more often.

I needed to remove the weeds from my gardens so that my plants would grow. In the same way, I need to remove sin from my life if I want to grow in Jesus. Verse 1b of our Bible Reading says, *“We should remove from our lives anything that would slow us down and the sin that so often makes us fall.”*

We need to do this every day. Examine your life today and remove things that are keeping you from following God. —**Suzanne Austin-Hill**

“We must never stop looking to Jesus. He is the leader of our faith, and he is the one who makes our faith complete.” Hebrews 12:2a

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, please remove sin from my life so I can serve and please You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Joyful Moment

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:9-12



We may experience many joyful moments in our lives — majestic mountains, a beautiful

display of fireworks, dolphins swimming in the ocean or the taste of our favorite food. We may remember these moments for many years.

Our Bible verses today talk about the very most joyful moment we will ever experience. This moment will be when we receive our reward and live with God in our heavenly home. Verse 9 tells us, *“But as the Scriptures say, ‘No one has ever seen, no one has ever heard, no one has ever imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.’”* And that moment will continue forever.

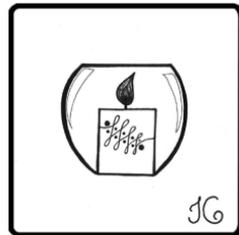
No matter what problems you are facing today, think about that joyful moment when you will live with God and experience His love and peace for eternity. —**Lynette Harris Denton**

“Now God’s home is the people. He will live with them. They will be his people. God himself will be with them and will be their God...There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain. All the old ways are gone.” Revelation 21:3b-4

PRAYER: Father, I praise You! I am excited to think about spending eternity with You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Light for Jesus (1)

Bible Reading: Mark 4:21-25



When there is a blackout in my area, I light candles. Why do I do that? So I can have light, and I won’t stumble around in the darkness.

In verse 21b of our Bible Reading today, Jesus said, *“You don’t take a lamp and hide it under a bowl or a bed, do you? Of course not. You put it on a lampstand.”* As Christians, we are like lights. We can show Jesus to other people through our actions and our communication. But if we do not share about Jesus with others, we are not letting our lights shine. Then the people we meet will continue to stumble around in the dark world of sin.

You will have opportunities today to share your light with people you meet. What will you do? Will you ignore them? Or will you let your light shine brightly and help them know about Jesus? —**Steve Husting***

“People don’t put a lamp under a bowl. They put it on a lampstand. Then the light shines for everyone in the house. In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:15-16

PRAYER: Dear Heavenly Father, I know that sometimes I am not a light for Jesus. Help me to be bold and share about Him today. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Light for Jesus (2)

Bible Reading: Ephesians 5:6-11



Yesterday we talked about the importance of light. It is hard to work or play in the dark. You

can't see what your hands are doing. You can't see where your feet are walking.

Our Bible verses today talk about light. Verse 8 says, *"In the past you were full of darkness, but now you are full of light in the Lord. So live like children who belong to the light."* How can we live so that others will see the light of Jesus in us? We can do kind things for people. This will help them see God's love. We can pray for people. Our prayers will help them see God working in their lives. We can go to church and other times of fellowship with Christians. This will show people that God is important to you.

Do you know people who live in the darkness without Jesus? Show them how they can obey Jesus and live for Him. —**Gayle Thorn**

*"Try to learn what pleases the Lord. Have no part in the things that people in darkness do, which produce nothing good. Instead, tell everyone how wrong those things are."
Ephesians 5:10-11*

PRAYER: Father, I want to be a light for Jesus. Show me how I can help others see Him today. In His name. Amen.

Burning Bush

Bible Reading: Exodus 3:1-6



I live in an area with lots of trees and bushes. Sometimes I look up at the trees, and I am impressed with how tall and strong they are. There are many bushes, too, but I hardly ever notice them.

Our Bible Reading today tells us about a bush that was burning. God wanted Moses to do something that was difficult — leading the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. God wanted to get Moses' attention so he would listen to Him. Did God use a tall tree or a mountain that was on fire? No! God used a small bush.

But it wasn't the bush that was important. God's message was important. Moses realized that God was speaking to Him and that he was standing on holy ground. Moses paid attention to God's message and obeyed.

God speaks to us, too. He speaks to us through His Word, the Bible, and through other Christians. Be like Moses — pay attention to God and obey. —**Bob La Forge**

*"God said, 'You can do it because I will be with you...After you lead the people out of Egypt, you will come and worship me on this mountain.'"
Exodus 3:12*

PRAYER: Lord, I am willing to serve and obey You today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Finding Peace

Bible Reading: **Philippians 4:5-7**



My doctor took my hand and said, "Mrs. Howard, I am sorry to tell you this. You have cancer."

I was stunned. Questions raced through my mind. Would I suffer? Would I lose my hair? Would I die?

When I got home, I searched in my Bible for words that would give me peace. Then I read 2 Timothy 1:7, "*The Spirit God gave us does not make us afraid. He is the source of power and love and self-control.*" That verse helped me understand that my fears were coming from the devil. I believed God had a plan for my life and that He would make His plan happen.

My fears went away, and God filled me with His peace. God has blessed me and I have been free of cancer for almost eighteen years. Our Bible verses for today remind me that God's peace will be with me and guard me. Because of that, I am no longer afraid.

Are you afraid of something today? God's Word will give you comfort and peace! —**Donna J. Howard***

*"And because you belong to Jesus Christ, God's peace will stand guard over all your thoughts and feelings."
Philippians 4:7a*

PRAYER: Father, thank You for Your precious Word that gives me peace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Light for My Path

Bible Reading: **Psalm 119:101-105**



My husband, two grandsons and I went on a mission trip with a group from our church. We served in a church that was located in a small town in a wooded area.

One morning our group went for a walk in the woods. I knew that it might become dark before we reached our destination, so I decided to take a lamp with me. This lamp helped us see the path and each other as we traveled.

The writer of Psalm 119 said in verse 105, "*Your word is like a lamp that guides my steps, a light that shows the path I should take.*" No matter what we are doing in life, God's Word will help us know what to do. The Bible has answers to all the important questions we may have in life.

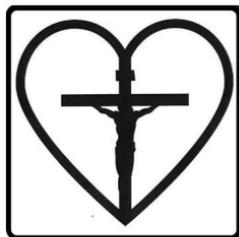
Do you have important decisions to make today? Do you need help deciding what path you should take in life? Read and study the Bible. God will provide you with wisdom and answers. —**Suzanne Austin-Hill**

"God's word is alive and working. It is sharper than the sharpest sword and cuts all the way into us... It judges the thoughts and feelings in our hearts." Hebrews 4:12

PRAYER: God, I know that You will lead me today through Your Word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

So Much Love

Bible Reading: Romans 5:6-11



I wonder how much God loves me. If I started to count the ways God loves me, I could go on

and on.

Even before I was born, God started showing His love for me. He created a universe full of wonderful things for me to enjoy. God showed His love through everything He made in nature. But God's love doesn't stop there.

God loves me beyond what I can imagine. He proved that by sending His Son, Jesus, to die for me. Jesus died for me even when I was lost and without Him. Verse 8 of our Bible Reading says, *"But Christ died for us while we were still sinners, and by this God showed how much he loves us."*

God has so much love for us! Even when we disobey Him, He chooses to keep on loving and forgiving us. Share God's message of love with someone today! —**Lynette Harris Denton**

"And not only will we be saved, but we also rejoice right now in what God has done for us through our Lord Jesus Christ. It is because of Jesus that we are now God's friends."
Romans 5:11

PRAYER: Dear Heavenly Father, I love You so much! I can never thank You enough for loving me and forgiving my sins. In Jesus name. Amen.

Summer Fun (1)

Bible Reading: Matthew 21:14-16

As I think back over this past summer, I remember all the fun I had during the summer when I was a child. Some of my best memories are when I went to Bible camp.



Bible camp was so much fun. I studied the Bible and fellowshiped with other children my age. Years later, my children went to Bible camp, too. When my youngest child went to camp, I missed her so much. But she had a great time — she did not miss me at all!

It is wonderful that children can have times of fun and fellowship. But it is more important that they can get together and praise and worship God. Our Bible Reading tells us about one time Jesus went to the Temple. Verse 15a says, *"The leading priests and the teachers of the law...saw the children praising him in the Temple area. The children were shouting, 'Praise to the Son of David.'"*

Take time to praise God and worship with your children and grandchildren today. —**Eileen C. Wood**

"But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them, because God's kingdom belongs to people who are like these children.'"
Matthew 19:14

PRAYER: God, use me to teach children about You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Summer Fun (2)

Bible Reading: Psalm 8:1-9



Our town newspaper asked people to share their fun summer experiences. One man told about

taking his grandchildren to the fair. He said he was amazed that his grandchildren showed no fear. He was surprised that they didn't get sick on the rides.

There are many other fun things that people can do in the summertime. Being outdoors during the summer helps us enjoy God's world and praise Him for what He has done. Camping out in the woods helps us see all that God has made. It also helps us get away from the stress and worries of life.

Maybe the writer of our Bible verses for today was outside when he wrote, *"I look at the heavens you made with your hands. I see the moon and the stars you created"* (verse 3). The writer also thanks God that people are important to Him.

When you are outside today, look at the world around you. Thank God for what He has made. Praise Him for making you! —**Eileen C. Wood**

"Lord our Lord, your name is the most wonderful name in all the earth! Psalm 8:9

PRAYER: Dear God, thank You for all the wonderful things You have made for me. And thank You for loving me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

BIBLE CHARACTERS

Unscramble the names of Bible characters mentioned in the devotion series called "Happy Times." If you need help, look at the devotion for the date that is listed. (The answers are at the bottom of page 64.)

1. YRMA (June 4)

2. SNSAITRHCI (June 8)

3. AHARS (June 1)

4. IESW NME (June 5)

5. RETPE (June 9)

6. MHAABAR (June 1)

7. GNKI DROEH (June 5)

8. MNOOLOS (June 3)

9. OHNJ (June 9)

10. MHEINEHA (June 2)

Authors

Thanks to these people who wrote devotions for this issue. Their initials appear at the end of the devotion(s) which they wrote. Those marked by an asterisk (*) are known to be deaf or hard-of-hearing persons.

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BH	—Bonnie Hall— <i>Muncie, IN</i>
BL	—Bob La Forge— <i>Freehold, NJ</i>
BM	—Brianna McCance— <i>DMEP*** Student</i>
BR	—Barbara Rusiecki— <i>Warner Robins, GA</i>
CC	—Chase Crough— <i>DMEP*** Student</i>
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** Deaf Missions Training Center

*** Deaf Missions Extension Program

Answers to page 63: 1) Mary; 2) Christians; 3) Sarah; 4) wise men; 5) Peter; 6) Abraham; 7) King Herod; 8) Solomon; 9) John; 10) Nehemiah.