



Groundbreaking
September 23, 2018

Celebration MEDITATIONS

GOD HAS PROVIDED.
WE ARE CALLED TO MOVE FORWARD.



SEPTEMBER 13-SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

WEEKLY THEME

The path and power to move forward comes
from the Spirit poured into our hearts.

PREAMBLE

As you use these meditations, offer a prayer for all who wrote them, God has given us a wealth of talent to serve God in this way. Please thank them.

All meditation passages are from NRSVUE except as noted.

Abram

The Word. Genesis 12:1

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

Meditation.

God was interested in Abram and chose him to do something audacious for a childless man 75 years old. No GPS, no AAA Triptik, no more instructions than to GO. Abram did not argue, ask for clarification, or try to negotiate. But God did promise some marvelous benefits, not only for Abram, but for all humanity.

Do you believe God calls us today to GO? Will you let the Holy Spirit lead you? Some years ago, God called a lot of Abrams to GO – to create a unified church family. And today God still calls us to GO.

JOY Prayer.

Jesus, I want to live like You. Show me how. Open my eyes to see how I can be a blessing to someone today. I want to be an active part of this church family to help someone to Live like Jesus. Make it so, O Jesus. Amen

~ Charles L. Reynolds

Moses

The Word. Exodus 3:4

When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

Meditation.

Moses was a washed-out former Prince of Egypt, now a shepherd working for his father-in-law. Around 80 years old. Life seemed to have passed for him. A stranger in a strange and rugged land. But this day will change his life forever, because of his curiosity about a small fire in a bush that doesn't burn up the bush. Are my eyes deceiving me? Am I in danger? Is my flock in danger. "Moses, Moses!" a voice commands. Stop, remove your sandals, you're on Holy Ground. After some quibbling, and a Holy promise, Moses is commissioned.

JOY Prayer.

Jesus, don't let go of me. When You call, let me stop, remove all that is unnecessary and await your message. I know it will be to use anything I have to be a blessing to someone, no matter how small it may seem. Use me through my church to make a blessing real for someone. Amen

~ Charles L. Reynolds

A green banner with a white dashed line and two yellow arrows pointing right. The text "333" is in large white font, followed by "PRAYER INITIATIVE" in white, and "Pray for 3 minutes, for 3 things, for 30 days." in yellow.

333

PRAYER INITIATIVE

Pray for 3 minutes, for 3 things, for 30 days.

Joshua

The Word. Joshua 1:9

I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Meditation.

From the very beginning of Joshua's leadership, God tells him to be "Strong and Courageous". Joshua was hand-picked by God and mentored by Moses to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. He had acted as a scout and personal aide. Now he was to be a conquering warrior, heading into battle. God commands Joshua to "be strong and courageous, to not be afraid nor discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you, wherever you go."

We followed Joshua's example as we unified and became stronger as CUMC. We moved onto our own land of 'milk and honey', (well, more like deer and rocks). We showed courage when this world told us "it can't be done". We listened to the words of the Lord to Joshua. And He has kept His promise to be with us wherever we go.

Some were preparing for this journey before it began. Many more joined us on the way. Still others were waiting near the end, to welcome us once we finally arrived.

And our journey isn't finished: God encourages us to courageously continue our journey.

JOY Prayer.

Dear Jesus, fill us with the desire to live like you. Holy Spirit help us to not give up when obstacles arise. Father God, keep us strong and courageous as we continue on our journey to serve you, those in our community, and beyond.

~ Pam Reynolds

Gideon

The Word. Judges 6:12

The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty warrior."

Meditation.

The angel finds Gideon at the bottom of a wine press secretly threshing wheat. Imagine Gideon's surprise by being greeted by an angel with the words "mighty warrior." Gideon doesn't see himself as a mighty warrior. He was afraid. He didn't think he could do what God wanted. The Lord answered Gideon's fears by saying, "I will be with you." God called Gideon right where he was, in the pit, afraid and doubting.

God continues to call us today to do mighty things. God saw Gideon for who he could be if he followed the Lord. God sees us the same way. We simply need to show up as we are, and God does the rest. Our lives can be more than we can imagine if we are willing to trust, follow, and obey.

JOY Prayer.

Lord Jesus, give me courage to always follow you. Holy Spirit, open my mind and heart to hear where I am being called to serve. Father God, help me remember that I can do anything in your name when I walk with you. Amen

~ Georgeann Laughman



David

The Word. 1 Samuel 17:32

David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

Meditation.

It is the 40th day of the battle between the Israelites and the Philistines. Jesse's son David, has just arrived, to bring his three older brothers' lunches and greetings from their father. Being a curious teenager, David drops the lunches and runs to the battle field, where the troops are preparing to face the enemy once again. Suddenly a giant of a man, named Goliath, over 9 feet tall and covered in armor, begins shouting his taunts to the terrified Israelite army. King Saul sent for his servant David, who tells the king not to worry that he will go fight Goliath! Of course, Saul protests greatly because, after all, David is just a boy. But David is persistent reminding Saul how he alone has fought lions and bears when they attack the sheep. "I'll do it to this pagan Philistine too, for he has defiled the armies of the living God! The Lord will protect me!" Saul finally consents saying, "Go ahead, and may the Lord be with you!" David boldly walks out to face Goliath, "When I kill you, the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! Everyone will know that this is the Lord's battle, and He rescues His people, but not with sword and spear." And with that David, kills Goliath, having faith over fear, and filled with the spirit of God, as his weapon. (Well... with one stone and a sling shot too!)

JOY Prayer.

Dear Jesus, help me to have the faith over fear when fear wants to take over my life. Holy Spirit, be my guide throughout life, both the good times and the bad. Gracious and Loving God, grant me peace and patience to put my life fully in your hands. AMEN

~ Sue Baxter

Hagar

The Word. Genesis 21:16-17

Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is.

Meditation.

She had not planned for any of this. Not the pregnancy, not the conflict with her mistress, and certainly not being cast out into the desert. Alone in her despair, without even enough hope to call out to the Lord, Hagar sat down and wept.

But the Lord heard the voice of her child crying in the wilderness. He heard, He saw, and He answered. In time, Hagar and Ishmael would find a new home and blessing beyond all expectations. That day, they received just what they needed to keep moving: water to quench their thirst, and a voice from heaven speaking words of hope.

JOY Prayer.

Jesus, you are the God Who Sees, the one who knows my quiet and lonely struggles. Speak to me words of hope and life. Teach me to trust that you are truly the love who will never let me go, the one who sustains me and makes a place for me. In all things, let me remember that I am seen and loved and held by you. Amen.

~ *Eric Born*

Hannah

The Word. 1 Samuel 1:15.

But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord.

Meditation.

Hannah was carrying a heavy burden. She longed for a child and felt deep sadness, yet she chose to bring her pain to God instead of giving up. Others misunderstood her and even judged her, but God knew her heart. Hannah reminds us that we never have to hide our struggles from the Lord. We can pour out our hearts to Him because He listens with love and compassion.

Our theme this week reminds us that the path and power to move forward come from the Spirit poured into our hearts. Like Hannah, we may not receive an immediate answer, but God gives us the strength, peace, and hope to keep trusting Him. When we place our lives in His hands, He is faithful to guide us one step at a time.

JOY Prayer.

Jesus, thank You for listening when I come to You with an honest heart. Help me to trust You with my worries and my hopes. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit so I may move forward in faith, even when I cannot see the whole path ahead. Use me through my church to encourage someone who is carrying a heavy burden today. May my life reflect Your love and bring joy to others. Amen.

~ *Precious Kpoto*