



Believing Together

A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

42 DAYS OF PRAYER



FIRST
METHODIST
CONROE



The Woodlands Hills
COMMUNITY CHURCH



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A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

42 DAYS

Day One

MARK 9:20- 24

Rev. Dr. Brenda Martin

Pause:

I choose to participate with our pastors, staff and congregation in believing and praying together for God's will for us. Lord, I am committing to you today to pray and as my prayers join with our pastors, staff and congregation I believe you hear our prayers and that you will answer. Amen.

Read:

So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the boy's father, how long has he been like this? From childhood, he answered. It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us. 'If you can?' said Jesus. Everything is possible for one who believes. Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief! Mark 9:20- 24

Consider: A first century father was desperate to the point of tears for Jesus to care for his son as only Jesus could. He stood in the presence of Jesus admitting to having some measure of faith; but confessing there was a gap. He did not have one hundred percent confidence that Jesus could or would heal his son. And then he did something extraordinary - he invited Jesus to fill in the gap. Where his human faith was lacking, he invited Jesus to give more. Jesus responded to this vulnerable honesty. He unhesitatingly helped that man's unbelief and healed his son!

Ask:

Where in your life do you need to ask the Lord to fill the gap?

Pray:

Lord, we believe together for your will and resurrection presence to heal lives and build your church on earth as it is in heaven. Lord, I give you the measure of faith that I have today and invite you to fill me and all of us praying today with greater faith. Amen.



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Day Two

EPHESIANS 3:14-16

Rev. Susan Kent

Pause:

Father, help me to pause today and recount all the ways you have blessed me through our family of faith. Amen

Read:

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being. Ephesians 3:14-16

Consider: Even while Paul was imprisoned, he wanted to encourage believers by reminding them who they are in Christ. They are a family! A family empowered by the Spirit to work together for God's purpose. Jews were always known as the children of God, but now the promise of Jesus has been given to the Gentiles too. That's us. Paul is praying that they not only recognize and remember this gift, but they would understand the power that comes through this family. Isn't that just like God, to show us His power through a community of faith instead of an individual? As the old adage says, we can do more together than apart. May we, like Paul, pray for one another to be strengthened together for God's glory.

Ask:
How has the church family
strengthened you to live your life
for Christ?

Pray:

Thank you Lord for the women and the men in this church with whom I get to walk alongside to do Your work. May they each feel your power today and be reminded of the gift you have given us in this church. Amen.



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Day Three

PSALM 133

Grace Reidy

Pause:

Unity in family, church, community, and country is essential for enjoying peace and experiencing God's blessings.

Read:

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is. For brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious oil upon the head running down on the beard. The beard of Aaron. Running down on the edge of the garments. It is like the dew of Hermon. Descending upon the Mountain of Zion; For there the Lord commanded the blessing- Life forevermore. Psalm 133 (NKJV)

Consider: As the scriptures say, how good and pleasant it is for people to dwell together in unity. We desire to please God with our hearts and actions, and the scriptures show us that God is delighted in our unity as we live as Christians in family, church, community, and nation. He wants us to be blessed with His presence in every aspect of our lives, especially unity within our relationships with others. His word picture shows how beautiful the dew is in the morning. The stunning sight before your eyes gives you elation, and it lifts your spirit. You want to open your heart, breathe in the clean air, and let your heart be filled with thankfulness to God! Our lifestyle of unity in the family, church, community, and nation is beautiful in the sight of our Lord. We should strive to live a life together in unity daily, mindful of what is good and pleasing to God. He is so delighted with us that he will pour his blessing upon us, and we will experience his blessing and presence each day.

Ask:

How can I demonstrate unity in the church to experience God's blessing in believing together in Christ today?

Pray:

Dear Lord, open our hearts to seek your presence in our daily lives. You are always with us, but our hearts wander away from you. May this day draw us closer to you. May we experience your presence through your words and your creation. We are blessed that you are our loving heavenly father. We thank you for this day, on which we can breathe the air you made and see your wonderful creations through colorful trees and birds singing. Your goodness abounds. We pray all these things in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.



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Day Four

HEBREWS 10:24-25

Kimberly Dybeck

Pause:

Think of a time someone encouraged you to see others as the Lord sees them. Did their encouragement cause you in turn to encourage others? Does the love you receive from God cause you to incite his love in your home? Your church? Your work and in the world?

Read:

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:23-24

Consider: There was an urgent knock on my door just after the hurricane. It was my neighbor Dave, a retired U.S. Army Colonel. He said two young hawks were violently blown from their nest during the hurricane and were laying in his yard. I wasn't sure why he crossed the street to tell me this and then I heard him say, "They need someone with compassion, so I knocked on your door!" Although I knew nothing about helping traumatized hawks, I jumped into action encouraged that he would turn to us for compassion. Immediately my heart felt flung in the direction of the Lord knowing all the love and compassion I could ever show is from Him alone. Grabbing small blankets, I followed Dave and located the baby hawks. They were face down, weak, but alive. Wrapping each in a blanket I cradled them in my arms after prying their strong talons from the grip they held to the ground. How could I help them? I felt inept to help until I remembered what Dave had sought from me - someone with compassion. I prayed out loud and watched as they perked up and began making hawk sounds. A few days later a male and female hawk came and sat on the wire above my head whenever I held the hawks outside. Eventually one baby hawk left with them! Those were just 2 little hawks. Now imagine people God brings into our lives - people tossed about in the storms of life. Imagine the impact if we profess Christ cling to him as if our life and theirs depend on it because they do!

Ask:

Are you clinging to Jesus? Who will you encourage toward love and good deeds this week?

Pray: God, you created hawks with keen eyesight and ability to fly to great heights. Enhance the eyes of my heart to see the way you see. Lift my thoughts above the storms so that when someone needs encouragement, compassion and love, they will knock on my door. Amen



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Day Five

MATTHEW 18:19

Darla Wood

Pause:

Is there really strength in numbers? We know it easier to move a heavy piece of furniture with help rather than by ourselves. Friends can help with obvious things like moving heavy items or the not so obvious like being there when you are feeling down or sharing a joyful event in life.

Read:

Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in Heaven. Matthew 18:19

Consider: When people agree with one another, there is power and strength just as there is when we work together on a task. This verse tells us that where two or three people gather in my name, we not only have each other, but we have the Lord. When you come to an agreement with another, you are achieving harmony or unity with that person through the power of Jesus. When two agree and Jesus is in their midst, miracles happen, mountains move, burdens are lifted and freedom comes. Throughout the scriptures we see the power of people working together, praying together, and seeking wisdom together. God's Word reminds us that we need one another!

Ask:

Who are the people in your life or church family that you can come into agreement through prayer?

Pray: Father, open our eyes to those around us who desire you as I do. Show us those who will help us and live life with us when we need them. Send us people who will strengthen us and encourage us and be willing to pray in unity with us. Most of all, help us to go out and be that encouragement for others in our community.



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Day Six

ACTS 2:44

Gale Drummond

Pause:

Koinonia = a close mutual relationship in life together. We have heard the term before, but to put it in real time, at First Methodist Conroe, we live Life. Better. Together. What better way to develop positive relationships in Christ and have common language as we make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Read:

All the believers were together and had everything in common. Acts 2:44

Consider:

Can you imagine what a Covid world would have been like during the time of Jesus? As the Christian community began to come together and to grow, Covid hits and everyone has to stay at home. There was no internet, so no streaming services – literally no communication systems. I learned during that time in 2020 that I needed my community. There really was no Life. Better. Together. at least at the beginning of that ordeal. As we slowly began the journey of being able to worship together, that sense of comfort and support returned. Luke tells the story of people meeting together and sharing not only their faith but living out their faith by helping one another. Praise the Lord. The Holy Spirit is visibly at work at FMC, expectations give way to anticipation as our attention turns to and focuses on God.

Ask:

How are you following God's plan to Live in community, Invest in others, Focus outward, and Experience God?

Pray: Holy Spirit, we know you are always present, and we are confident in the journey coming before us. Please inspire us to share the Word of the Gospel with those whom we know but also to those we don't and who may be hungry for you. Encourage us to become invested in Life. Better. Together. at both campuses of FMC. Amen



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Day Seven

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10

Rev. Dr. John Wayne McMann

Pause:

Lord, help me to identify any concerns and sources of anxiety. I surrender each one of these to you one at a time. Holy Spirit, guide this moment.

Read:

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. 1 Corinthians 1:10

Consider: I grew up in a home that was riddled with conflict. Now it was not nuclear conflict, though sometimes that could be true. But conflict exists in a home with three boys, both parents working, and some difficult life circumstances. On a good day, at least one of us boys were trying to sabotage another. It would be hard for me to remember a time when ALL of us agreed with one another, with NO divisions, and PERFECTLY united in mind and thought. How could a community possibly live in to this command from the apostle Paul? In our church we have different political views, different ethnicities, different cultures, different languages, different socio-economic experiences, different stories, and different priorities. So, to think that we can achieve perfect unity, even for a second, sounds utopian.

Whether this command is meant to be an achievable reality or at least something to strive for, does not negate the validity of the importance of unity. And there is one catch in this passage; the whole command is through the premise that Jesus is in the center of the community. It is only possible with Jesus. The cross and resurrection is the uniting factor that crosses every divide. Jesus is the great equalizer that brings forgiveness for all and life for all. But it requires that our identity in Christ supersedes any other label, affiliation, culture, or disagreement.

Ask:
Start small today: Who in your life do you have a disagreement with? Can you pray for them?

Pray: God, thank you that you have called us son and daughter. Help me to live in that identity today and to seek unity with others. Jesus, you have made a way for the family to live in unity and we ask that you continue to break down barriers of divide in our lives. Amen.



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Day Eight

MARK 12:30-31

Rev. Elizabeth Acosta

Pause:

Today, let us reflect on the power of love as a deliberate choice. How can we intentionally love God and others with purpose and obedience? Lord, help us to choose love in every action and decision, reflecting Your perfect love through us.

Read:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this, Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these. Mark 12:30-31

Consider:

In our fast-paced lives, it's easy to think of love as just a feeling that comes and goes. However, Jesus teaches us that true love is much more than that. It requires intentionality and a conscious decision to put others before ourselves. Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength means dedicating every part of our being to Him. Similarly, loving our neighbors as ourselves means we are called to be proactive and purposeful in our actions, demonstrating love through obedience to God's commands. This love goes beyond mere emotions; it's about making a choice every day to follow Jesus' example of selfless, unconditional love.

Ask:

How can you intentionally show love to God and your neighbors today, reflecting the purposeful love Jesus commands us to live out?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, guide us to love You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Help us to intentionally love our neighbors as ourselves, making choices that honor You and reflect Your love. May our lives be a testament to the obedient, purposeful love You have shown us. Amen.



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Day Nine

1 PETER 3:8-9

Dennis Floro

Pause:

Who is God calling our church to be? What does that mean for us as individuals?

Read:

Finally, all of you, be like minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 1 Peter 3:8-9

Consider:

The 8th verse brings Peter to a new point where the letter is written to Christians in general. In earlier scriptures he focused on issues unique to various groups of people. Now he writes to “all Christians” and commands that they are to be like minded, sympathetic, loving one another, compassionate and humble. As we live into this wonderful opportunity to plant this new church campus in The Woodlands Hills, this scripture is a good reminder for us in how we encourage, support, and hold each other accountable. Who is it that God is calling this church to be? Who is God calling us to reach? To whom can we give a blessing? Through our prayers together, God will send the answer.

Ask:

When is it the most difficult to turn the other cheek and the most challenging to repay evil with a blessing?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, open our hearts and minds to always see you at work in us, through us, and around us. Along the way, we will be challenged and ask you to lead us to respond with love, compassion, and humility.



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Day Ten

ISAIAH 43:10

Michelle Fritz

Pause:

What does it mean to be a witness? Who am I to witness to others? Where have you witnessed God?

Read:

You are my witnesses declares the Lord and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me. Isaiah 43:10

Consider:

We are not just a witness, but we are His witness. He is the one and only and we are chosen by Him. If He has chosen us to be his witness and to witness, that means He has equipped us to do so. I challenge you to find God each day in your daily walk. It might not be something profound, but something that could only be of God. Then share that with someone. When you feel the nudge to tell someone, do it without reservation. We are chosen to see and believe so when we share, God will be their eyes and ears to see and hear.

Ask:

Are you looking for God in your daily life? When you see Him, are you sharing that with others? He allows us to witness his great works, what a privilege that we need to share with the people that he has put in our lives.

Pray:

Gracious and loving God. We are humbled by your love for us. That you choose us to share your story with others. I pray that you help us to see you so that we may share your love with others who do not know you. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.



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Day Eleven

PROVERBS 27:17

Sam Michalk

Pause:

Lord let your will be done through your new church, The Woodlands Hills Community Church. Let your Holy Spirit prepare our hearts to hear what you have to say through this devotional today. Amen.

Read:

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17

Consider:

Not only are we sharpened by like-minded believers, but we also sharpen them. As Christians, we were never meant to walk this path of faith alone. God uses community in our lives to speak to us in ways that we would not experience by just reading the Bible or going to church. We have a purpose within our community, to sharpen our faith and how we live it out. We are to be sharpened as we sharpen others.

Ask:

Who in your life is “sharpening” you to look more like Jesus? How can you participate in community?

Pray:

Lord, I pray for each of us reading this today. That we would be encouraged to be vulnerable with other Christians and experience God working through those people. We pray for your church to reflect you. That we could chase after you together and that the Holy Spirit would be so present. Amen.



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Day Twelve

ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12

Craig Stephan

Pause:

Here are some things I prefer not to do by myself: make a bed, hang a picture, build a deck. None are impossible for one. I've done it. But Lord, show me the way to match my skills with the person who can make us your best witness and worker as a team.

Read:

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Consider:

The writer seems to simply refer to companionship, either with friends, colleagues or marriage. Two equals more labor. Two equals help in trouble. Two equals warmth, defense; all logical and straightforward. Hey, look at bed-making, picture-hanging and deck building. Sensible. Better with two. And sometimes, physically, the road is steep, the materials heavy, the journey long (to continue a building analogy). God intends for us to work together for His Kingdom. It's not a solitary sport. Now, is there more here than the simplicity of pairs?

What of spiritual companionship? The spiritual companionship of another building the Kingdom of God along with you. Another praying for and about the work along with you; two praying for one another. Now consider the benefits. I think they more than double. Furthermore – and most importantly, the spiritual companionship of Christ. What more can I do – can we do? What better can I do if He is my companion? Is Christ not the most important man on the team?

Ask:

Am I supporting my earthly companions in ministry?
Am I leaning on those companions when the ministry gets tough?

Pray:

Father, prepare me for the work of your kingdom. Show me where to build and let me grow in service to you as I grow in friendship, love and collaboration with others you have chosen to join in the building.



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42 DAYS

Day Thirteen

ACTS 1:8

Rev. Frank Acosta

Pause:

Have you ever felt overwhelmed by the task of witnessing for Christ? Take a moment to pray, "Lord, fill me with Your Spirit today so I can be a bold witness for You."

Read:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8

Consider:

As Jesus prepared to ascend to heaven, He gave His disciples a mission: to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. This mission might have seemed daunting to them, as it can to us today. However, Jesus promised that they would receive power through the Holy Spirit to carry out this task. This power is not just for the early disciples but for all believers. When we rely on the Holy Spirit, we are equipped to share the gospel boldly and effectively, regardless of our own limitations. Reflect on how the Holy Spirit empowers you in your daily life and how you can be a witness in your community. Our witness begins in our immediate surroundings and extends outward, impacting lives with the message of Christ.

Ask:
How can you rely on the Holy Spirit today to be a bold witness for Christ in your community?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit who empowers us to be Your witnesses. Help us to rely on Your Spirit daily, boldly sharing the love of Christ in our words and actions. May our witness bring glory to Your name and draw others to Your kingdom. Amen.



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Day Fourteen

MATTHEW 28:18-20

Terry Bowie

Pause:

“Confusing times” doesn’t even begin to express how I feel regarding current affairs, be they local, national, or international. It is difficult, frankly, to see/hear God in the menagerie in which we find ourselves. God, I believe; help my unbelief! Amen.

Read:

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

Consider:

The verse immediately preceding this passage reads, “And when they saw him they worshipped him; but some doubted.” Wait! What? These are the disciples; the original eyewitnesses who were privileged to break bread with, to be taught by, to pray with Jesus.... yet, even they had doubt. To me, that is extremely comforting. To doubt, in other words, is not necessarily a bad thing. You are, in fact, in pretty good company! God trusted those original disciples, in spite of their doubt, to introduce a faith that eventually grew around the world and has continued down to this day. Now God charges me, and trusts me, to take up the challenge. In spite of all the conflict in the world and in spite of all my doubt, God wants me to go and make disciples, promising that God is with me. Wow!

Ask:

Is doubt causing you to miss the opportunity to be all that you can be for God, even though God trusts you, indeed, is counting on you to respond and, not only that, promises to be with you every step of the way?

Pray:

Creator God, who “knit me together in my mother’s womb,” and who “knows the number of hairs on my head,” help me to understand that you certainly know my doubts and yet have a job for me to do and trust me to do it. Realizing that, Lord, help me to love and trust you with all my heart, knowing that you are with me always. Amen.



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Day Fifteen

JOHN 17:20-21

Rev. Joshua Ray

Pause:

The importance we give Christian unity seems to regularly fall short when we consider the way we live out our faith. Even those who call for unity often fail to present a convincing vision for what Christian unity looks like and resorting to a distant and symbolic “unity”. Perhaps we need to be asking, “Why is Christian unity so important to God and His Kingdom?” and “What does it say about our faith and understanding when we lack unity?” LORD, grant us wisdom and understanding to see and the courage and strength to do.

Read:

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me, and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. John 17:20-21

Consider: The verse immediately preceding this passage reads, “And when they saw him they worshipped him; but some doubted.” Wait! What? These are the disciples; the original eyewitnesses who were privileged to break bread with, to be taught by, to pray with Jesus.... yet, even they had doubt. To me, that is extremely comforting. To doubt, in other words, is not necessarily a bad thing. You are, in fact, in pretty good company! God trusted those original disciples, in spite of their doubt, to introduce a faith that eventually grew around the world and has continued down to this day. Now God charges me, and trusts me, to take up the challenge. In spite of all the conflict in the world and in spite of all my doubt, God wants me to go and make disciples, promising that God is with me. Wow!

Ask:
How does Jesus’ prayer for unity among all believers impact the witness of First Methodist Conroe?

Pray: Gracious LORD, would You teach us what it means to be united with Christians around the world who testify to Your lordship and gospel. Would You shape us to be a people with a shared vision and mission that reflects the work of Your Kingdom here on earth. Heal our hearts and grant us humility that there would be nothing separating us from the communion You have called into with You and each other. Spur us on and grant us a holy imagination to pursue such heavenly things in our ministry context both locally and abroad that the whole world would know Jesus Christ is LORD.



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Day Sixteen

PSALM 100:5

Cassidy Campbell

Pause:

His faithfulness never ends. It amazes me to have a Heavenly Father whose nature is forever faithful. He loves us so deeply, and our lives are living testimonies of His goodness. He is a good Father who made me to love me. Through His love in me, His goodness shines to the world around me.

Read:

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalm 100:5

Consider:

It was a crisp November afternoon, and I was cozied up by the fire, tapping away at my computer. Suddenly, I could hear a burst of energy—those fast, eager footsteps—and then came the pokes. With great enthusiasm, she began, “Daddy, DAD, Dad, DAD, DADDY, DAD, DAAAAD!” For a solid three minutes, we were both laughing uncontrollably. Finally, I turned to see what she wanted, and with the sweetest grin, she said, “I LOVE YOU.” My heart melted in that moment. Just like that, you bring joy and laughter to God’s heart—let Him fill yours too! That is the confidence we have in this scripture.

Ask:

Have you had thanked him lately for His faithfulness, His goodness in your life?

Pray:

Thank You for the simple, beautiful moments that bring us joy and laughter. Just like my child’s playful persistence warmed my heart, I know that our lives, even in the smallest of ways, bring joy to Yours. Help me to embrace the joy of the confidence of your faithfulness. Remind me of Your delight in me, just as I delight in You. Amen.



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Day Seventeen

GENESIS 17:7

Rev. Bryan Moore

Pause:

Remember that you are part of the family of God. Give God thanks for all of the people in your life who taught you about Jesus, modeled authentic faith, and encouraged you to keep moving forward in your faith journey every step of the way.

Read:

I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. Genesis 17:7

Consider:

Recently, I helped my son learn to ride a bike. I had to keep encouraging him to believe in himself. He eventually got it and I love that we can now share in something that brings us both joy! In a similar yet more profound way, I bet that Abraham couldn't wait to share faith with his son. But God's promises to Abraham and Isaac were not for them alone. They were meant to be passed on so that all Abraham's descendants would belong to God's everlasting covenant.

Passing down faith to the next generation doesn't happen automatically. It requires parents and mentors teaching, modeling, and championing their faith. Today there are powerful forces at work against our kids. Therefore, we must constantly encourage them to keep "pedaling down" the path of faith, give grace when they fall, and help them over the bumps of life. When families and the Church believe in the next generation, they will be better equipped to experience the life-long joy of riding down the path of the Christian life.

Ask:

Who can you help transmit the Christian faith too, and how can you encourage them to keep "pedaling down" the path of faith?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, today I give you thanks for the people in my life who modeled what it looked like to be a follower of God. Use me to influence the life of a young person, so that my faith will become their faith, my God, their God. It's in Jesus name I pray. Amen.



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42 DAYS

Day Eighteen

PSALM 78:1-4

Kailey Davis

Pause:

Do you share the goodness of God with the younger generation? How many blessings have we encountered throughout generations that are forgotten simply because we forget to share them and reflect upon them? Lord, show us where you have been present in our lives and help us to remember to share the stories of your love with others. Remind us to praise you and to share your love with the next generation. Amen.

Read:

My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old, things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. Psalm 78:1-4

Consider:

From the beginning of creation, generation after generation have told of God's goodness. In fact, this is the only way the children and families learned. Most information was passed down through stories. Through these stories, each generation learned the character and love of God in order to then know God for themselves. As they learned and matured, they were eventually able to pass down stories of their own. In this way, the belief in God has been strong for over 2,000 years and still going! They even refused to keep it for themselves. They would not hide these truths because the ancestors knew the importance of passing down the stories of God.

Ask:

What praiseworthy deeds of the Lord do you need to share with the next generation?

Pray:

Lord, I believe that you are calling us to share our stories and the stories of generations before us. Help us to be brave enough to share stories of your goodness with others. God, remind us of the blessings that you give us every day so that we can continue to share praiseworthy stories with those around us and raise up another generation of people who know of your love. Amen.



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A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

42 DAYS

Day Nineteen

DEUTERONOMY 11:19-21

Rique Garza

Pause:

Lord, You are the source of all life. You are the true Living Water. I choose to drink from your word and ask You to lead me into pouring out as my cup overflows with the goodness of your promises to me. Amen.

Read:

Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth. Deuteronomy 11:19-21

Consider:

Our passage reminds us to, in every season and every moment, lead our young ones in the way of everlasting. The verse just before our passage says to “fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds...”. There is a meditation, a continued mulling over, if you will, on the commands of the Lord. There is a continued teaching, a reminding of God’s commands and promises and testifying into the younger generation. Verse 7 says “But it was your own eyes that saw all these great things the Lord has done.” We must tell of the greatness of the Lord we have seen with our own eyes and pass down the faith and assurance we have. And with that assurance tell of how we’ve seen His great promises work in our lives. We must teach them to love the Lord with everything they have - soul, mind and- strength. But first, we must live that out in our own lives. We must be a people who not only trust Lord but have seen and can testify of His faithfulness through our generation to pass on to the next. In order to see something, you have to be looking. May we be a people who are looking to testify of the goodness of The Lord - a people who have eyes to see His goodness in our lives.

Ask:
How am I loving God with my whole heart, soul, mind and strength? And how am I instilling that same fervor and passion for God into the next generation?

Pray:

Lord, we are believing together for a steadfast faith to lead the next generation in your ways. We’re asking that you give us vision and provision on how to reach and teach them in your Holy ways. We thank you for leading us into the fulfillment of Your promises to us. Amen.



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A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

42 DAYS

Day Twenty

PROVERBS 22:6

Seth Duty

Pause:

Believing together as a church is vital for spiritual growth and unity. When we share faith, support one another, and worship in community, we strengthen our bond in Christ. This collective belief fosters encouragement, accountability, and a deeper connection with God, allowing us to serve as a powerful, unified witness of His love and truth to the world. I pray Lord, that we may grow stronger together as your church. Help us to encourage one another, and to be a shining example of your grace and truth. Amen

Read:

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6

Consider:

For Christians, this verse underscores the importance of guiding children in faith and values from a young age. It reminds us that the foundation we lay through teachings, being an example, and love has a lasting impact. In daily life, this means living out our beliefs authentically, modeling kindness, integrity, and devotion. It also involves actively nurturing spiritual growth in children through prayer, scripture, and involvement in the church community. By investing in their faith journey early on, we equip them to carry these values into adulthood, helping them navigate life's challenges with a strong moral and spiritual compass. This commitment to nurturing faith not only shapes their future but strengthens the entire church community.

Ask:

What can we do to incorporate Proverbs 22:6 into our daily routines to help guide and nurture our children in their faith?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, we commit to guiding our children in Your ways, as Proverbs 22:6 instructs. Grant us wisdom and strength to model Your love and truth daily. May our lives reflect Your teachings, nurturing their faith from a young age so they grow steadfast in Your path. Amen



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42 DAYS

Day Twenty-One

MATTHEW 19:13-15

Janita Love

Pause:

Choose to spend time daily, praying for the children with whom you regularly come in contact, as well as those little faces in our local community and around the world who are unseen.

Read:

Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there. Matthew 19:13-15

Consider:

In a world that was dangerous to children, loving parents wanted to bring their children to Jesus. They thought Jesus would surely bless the children and protect them from harm, just by having Jesus touch them. However, the disciples rebuked the parents and tried to turn them away. Jesus heard this and made it clear that these innocent little ones are a part of the kingdom of heaven, the place of God's authority, established by Jesus Christ, to resist evil. Just picture Jesus in the kingdom, surrounded by little cherubs, sitting in his lap and climbing all over him. These are the next generation who will help carry on the work of the Lord. Let them see the Christian in you, believe in them, talk with them, let them "sit in your lap". As the song goes, "And they'll know we are Christians by our love."

Ask:

What are you doing today to teach our children about God? Are you including them in family activities? Are you being a Christ-like role model? Are you teaching them that they are never alone and always have God at their side? Are you teaching them to pray?

Pray:

Lord, make me aware of the ways I can be a positive, faithful Christian to all children. Reveal to me how I can teach them about Jesus. Help me to remember that it is my actions that speak louder than my words. Amen



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42 DAYS

Day Twenty-Two

JOHN 3:14-17

Ruth Ann Person

Pause:

his week we reflect on compassion towards others with a familiar passage. Consider what it might look like to read these words with a new heart. Holy Spirit, we ask your blessings on this time and on the reading of these words. We give thanks for God's Word and pray that these words may become etched on our hearts and enable us to go out in the world to share with others. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Read:

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:14-17

Consider: Our scripture reading for today might be one of the most well-known scriptures to people around the world. But for many, the scripture verse that was memorized as a child does not always include verses 14-15. Jesus is speaking to Nicodemus, a Pharisee. In the same fashion that he usually did, he would use a story from the Old Testament that was familiar to His audience, one that they would recognize. Jesus reminds Nicodemus how God instructed Moses to create a bronze snake on a pole to be lifted high. When the Israelites looked up at the bronze snake, they would be healed. In the same way, Jesus says that He must be lifted up so that all who believe would have eternal life through Him. John 3:16 is perhaps one of God's greatest examples of compassion towards man. The fact that God would send His son to earth was because of His great love for us and His great desire for us to be with Him. This show of compassion is one that we should strive to reflect in our love for others and to guide our actions. Our love and compassion for others should be so great that we look past people's situations and outward appearances and see them as God sees them. When we believe and have a compassionate heart, together we are able to do far more than we could ever imagine for the kingdom of God here on earth.

Ask:
Read the scripture above one more time. Do we hear these words with gratitude? Do we hear these words with a yearning that others might hear and believe?

Pray: Gracious and loving God, we are humbled and full of gratitude for the compassion and mercy You show us each day. We know that You desire for all of Your sons and daughters to be in relationship with You. May our hearts be opened to hear your Word and to show compassion to those who are hurting and in need. Help us to keep our eyes on Jesus and to lift Him up for others to see and believe. We ask all these things in the name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.



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42 DAYS

Day Twenty-Three

1 JOHN 4:7-11

Maritza Leon

Pause:

When we see others around us do you feel compassion? When you see their needs or if they look tired or sick are you moved to love them and pray for whatever their need may be?

Read:

1 John 4: 7-11 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Consider:

What made me follow and dedicate my life to God was exactly because he loved us first to the point of giving Jesus to pay for our sins, His only Son, His innocent Son, His holy son for me. Even before I existed, GOD thought of me! Such an incredible love should also inspire us to forgive and love those around us even if in our opinion they don't deserve it. In my personal case, I thought I fell short of deserving such love and forgiveness, but that was not God's opinion. If we can love someone that way, that someone could be saved!

Ask:

What part of your life do you need to change in order to love as the Lord asks us to love?

Pray:

Father God, I want to love as you asked us to do. I want to feel the pain and understand the needs of others and make them my own. Help me see how I can help them. Make me your vessel. Amen



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42 DAYS

Day Twenty-Four

COLOSSIANS 3:12-13

Dennis Hallaron

Pause:

It's voting Day! Today, as we look at the attributes Paul urged the Colossian church to have. They are the characteristics we want our leaders to possess. However, the characteristics Paul speaks about, allow people to work with each other in peace and love. Do we carry these characteristics in our own lives?

Read:

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:12-13

Consider:

How would we feel if these were the main attributes of a presidential candidate? Some people might view them as weak or non-effectual. After all, we consider leaders to be forceful, strong and charismatic to govern the strongest country in the world. However, that would be the polar opposite of the characteristics Paul elevates. With these attributes, we can have peace, justice, and less conflict. Even though we live in a broken world, Jesus lived a life that transcended this world. He showed us what it means to live a life to the fullest. He was the perfect example so may we strive to be like Jesus.

Ask:

When others look at me, do they see compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience and a willingness to forgive?

Pray:

Lord, we pray for leaders willing to follow you. Help me be a person that lives a life different from the world, willing to clothe myself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience and a willingness to forgive. May I live a life like You and for You Jesus. Come Holy Spirit! Amen



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42 DAYS

Day Twenty-Five

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-3

Leah Smith

Pause:

Today, let's remember how much God loves us and how amazing that is. Today, let us commit to our faith, family, and to our church leadership to follow Jesus' example to show God's love in the world. I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide our church to use our spiritual gifts to unify and strengthen our church so that we may bring God's light to the world.

Read:

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Consider:

Paul was writing to the church in Corinth to help the congregation grow in spiritual maturity. He was concerned that they were using their spiritual gifts to inflate their own importance and that they had lost sight of the resurrected Christ. He was reminding them that their gifts of the Spirit were wonderful and amazing gifts of grace. However, they must remember that their gifts were given by the Holy Spirit to help build God's kingdom, to strengthen the body of his church and to keep his people focused and unified. He tells them that their gifts must reflect God's love or else they have no real meaning. God loved us so much that he gave his only son as a sacrifice for the sins of all people. There is no love greater than that. God's love is eternal, selfless and it is for all people, even the unlovable.

Ask:

How can you use your spiritual gifts to show God's love in the world and help strengthen His kingdom?

Pray:

Lord, thank you for loving us and for the wonderful gifts that you give each of us. Thank you for sending Jesus to be our redeemer and our example. Help us to understand the depth and breadth of your love for us so that we may show it to the world. We believe that your love will guide us to use our gifts to bring others to Christ and to build and strengthen our church. Amen.



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A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

42 DAYS

Day Twenty-Six

JOHN 20:21

JoAnn Lakin

Pause:

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we reflect on all we are thankful for, but many of us also reminisce and perhaps miss Thanksgiving celebrations from years past. Was it a simpler time when our families and culture were more united in purpose and values? Were our words and deeds more aligned? Do you wonder, how can we have the courage and wisdom to influence others and share what we know to be true?

Read:

JOHN 20:21 - So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." NIV

Consider:

Jesus spoke these words when He appeared to the disciples after His Resurrection. He gives us His peace, the peace that comes from overcoming sin and death. The peace of knowing the whole story. The story of Jesus' restoration for our lives, now and even more fully upon His return. We as believers are fortunate to know this peace and healing. But others don't. Jesus gives us a great commission in this scripture and that is to bring this peace to others. The American Heritage dictionary defines "compassion" as a deep awareness of the suffering of another with a wish to relieve it. In Christ and with compassion we wish to relieve the suffering of those lost, knowing no real peace. We may not be able to change our culture by debate or exclusion, but we can live lives of influence as we ask the Holy Spirit to help us share the peace we have in Christ. This is our purpose. We influence others through our lives, whether we speak truth or we simply live out truth.

Ask:
Do we live with compassion for those who are lost? Will we pray for that compassion to bring the peace of Jesus to those in need?

Pray:

Lord, we know that you have sent us to live out your message to a lost world. We pray that you will fill our hearts daily with compassion for others and a desire for them to know and understand the peace you have left us.



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A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

42 DAYS

Day Twenty-Seven

EPHESIANS 4:31-32

Courtney Oaks

Pause:

When is a time love and forgiveness was offered to you and you felt unworthy of it? What do you currently need to be forgiven for? Lord, we lift up our sins to you and ask for Your forgiveness. We know that through Your Son, Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and we are so grateful for Your love and mercy.

Read:

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:31-32

Consider:

Bitterness, wrath, anger, slander; all these things are natural to us. Just look at our world. They are everywhere and are sadly even encouraged – have you turned on the TV recently?? However, we are called to be children of light, and live life differently than everyone else. In this scripture, Paul is reminding us that it is our duty to think and act like Jesus - to be kind and loving in a way that is totally counter-cultural. But this task is far too lofty to do on our own. Yet if we pause and remember that through Jesus, God has forgiven us of all our mistakes, transgressions, and negative thoughts, then we, too, can love like Jesus and do the same. If we can understand the depths of forgiveness that God has offered us, and accept that gift, then it becomes much easier to forgive others and live with tenderheartedness. Hurt in life is unavoidable, but no pain is too deep or too widespread to lie beyond the power of God's love and forgiveness.

Ask:

Who in your life needs your forgiveness?

Pray:

Let's meditate on that beautiful forgiveness and ask God to do that work through us. Lord, help us to do the supernatural here, and not the natural. Help us to show the same grace and mercy to others, that You give to us. We pray that You would turn our minds and hearts away from the bitterness, slander, anger, and malice that is so often surrounding us. Help us to be a direct reflection of Jesus through grace and mercy towards others.



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A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

42 DAYS

Day Twenty-Eight

LUKE 10:33-37

Michael Braden

Pause:

Jesus calls for his followers to help the widows, poor, and the orphans. Being part of a Christian community is getting involved in volunteering in helping inside the church as well as outside the church walls. The pastors and staff welcome you to ask them, "Where can I serve?"

Read:

But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." Luke 10:33-37 (NIV)

Consider:

How often do we walk pass the homeless person on the street needing a dollar to two? I sadly admit I have. However, for most of us, giving money is the easy part. I believe that Jesus means for us to get personally involved with our time and talents. At the time, the Jews hated Samaritans so much that they would cross the Jordan river rather than travel through Samaria. In the story of the Good Samaritan, two very religious Jewish people crossed the road rather than help. However, it was the Samaritan who provided care for the robbed man. Not only money, but Time - our most precious commodity. What is holding us back from volunteering our time to be involved in helping others?

Ask:

How can I use my time and resources to help our church and those who are in need of assistance.

Pray:

Heavenly Father, I have been richly Blessed by you and I want to share the good news with those less unfortunate. Please use me to help others in need. Open up doors where I may serve you and your church. Amen.



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A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

42 DAYS

Day Twenty-Nine

ACTS 13:47-49

Jan Floro

Pause:

Through the power of the Holy Spirit within us, may we be that light in the darkness that draws someone into a life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Read:

“For this is what the Lord has commanded us: “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord, and all who were appointed for eternal life believed. The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.” Acts 13:47-49 NIV

Consider:

I was born into a musically gifted family and as soon as I could talk, I learned to sing. One of the first songs I remember singing was, “This Little Light of Mine.” I still remember the lyrics and the hand motions that I was taught. Our young children’s choir would belt out the words that we were not going to hide our light under a bushel, but we were going to let our light shine. We were not going to let Satan blow out our light, we were going to let our light shine. Boldly we would claim that everywhere that we would go, all around the world, we were going to let our light shine. And yet today, we live in a dark world with so much hurt, despair and hopelessness where there seems to be very little light shining brightly. Scripture tells us that the Lord has commanded us to be that light so that salvation may multiply exponentially to the ends of the earth.

Ask:
What keeps us from sharing our personal testimony about the life-giving salvation of Jesus Christ with those we know best, and those we know the least?

Pray:

Lord, from the beginning of time, you have been the light to a dark and chaotic world. Your salvation is available to all and you command us to reflect purely your light and proclaim you in our families, communities, and across the world. Give us awareness of the opportunities you lay before us and may we respond with eagerness and joy to be your light to share your message of life changing hope, grace, and love. Glory to the Light of the World! Amen.



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A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

42 DAYS

Day Thirty

ROMANS 10:11-15

Vic Folkert

Pause:

Where would I be without Jesus? Lord, I rejoice today in your goodness and grace. I especially thank you for . . .

Read:

“Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” —Romans 10:11-15

Consider:

The good news of Jesus is for everyone, not just for those privileged with a godly heritage. Yet many people do not understand the rich blessings they will receive if they give their lives to Christ. They need someone to “preach” the good news of salvation to them — not just in church, but where they live. They need to hear the gospel, not as a bunch of religious words or a message of condemnation and shame, but as the natural overflow of a heart filled with blessing, beauty, and transforming grace.

Ask:

Are you so overwhelmed by the rich blessings of life in Christ that you want to share it with others? Do you believe that the people around you will be richly blessed if they truly understand the gospel and give their lives to Christ? How does that motivate you to reach out to them in love?

Pray:

Thank you, Jesus, for giving your life to offer us the rich blessings of salvation and transformation. Fill me with your Spirit, so I can live a beautiful life that reflects your goodness and grace. Give me opportunities to share the good news of salvation with somebody, even today. Amen.



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A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

42 DAYS

Day Thirty-One

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-6

Christy Moore

Pause:

Today I remember with joy all those I partner with in the gospel of Jesus Christ at FMC. I pray that our hearts would be knit together for the work set before us, and that through our partnership we would find encouragement and the miracle of multiplication that happens as followers of Jesus move and breathe as the Body of Christ.

Read:

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:3-6

Consider:

At so many points in my life I've needed to remember this - God began the good work. He will carry it to completion. If we are living in obedience to a call from the Lord, we have an amazing (and countercultural) freedom from worry. He began the work - He will complete it. Yes, there is a part He has allowed us to play in this process and we are called to be diligent, but the completing is not our business. Obedience is what we are called to and freedom from worry is the supernatural byproduct and His glorious gift to us. Like most gifts it can sit in the corner and get dusty, or we can choose to pick it up and walk in that radical joy and freedom. God is faithful. He is worthy of our trust. He alone can complete the work of salvation and will continue the good work He has begun in each of us to bring His salvation to the lost and hurting in our families, neighborhoods, and cities.

Ask:
Where in your life have you taken on the responsibility for 'completing' rather than obeying? Have you allowed yourself the joy and freedom from worry that God is offering?

Pray:

Good and faithful Father, today I let go of my need to complete what is yours alone. You call us to participate in your work of bringing hope, healing, and salvation, but we recognize it is your work and you are the one who will complete it in your time. Free us from the worry we hold onto tightly, and help us to walk in joy as we shine your light in the dark places around us.



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A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

42 DAYS

Day Thirty-Two

1 CORINTHIANS 3:4-7

Tom Holt

Pause:

Have you ever heard the term “Teamwork makes the dream work”? I am not sure why, but I always feel a bit uncomfortable when people tell me this. Maybe because of the word “dream” I think as wishful thinking and not the assured faith we have in Christ. Today’s scripture made me think of God’s “team” and the power it has.

Read:

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe- as the Lord assigned each to his task. I planted the seed. Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who makes things grow. 1 Corinthians 3:5-7 NIV

Consider:

When I have read this passage in the past, I always thought of farm analogies, having grown up in farming. You know, plowing, planting, spraying for diseases/bugs, and harvesting. Today as I meditate on this scripture, I think of spiritual gifts that each of us have and how this makes up the church and with the one who is in charge of it all - Christ! Apollos and Paul were servants assigned the task based on the gifts God had given them. One is not greater than other, just as one-step in the process of growing a field of corn is not more important than the other. God is in charge of the saving and growing the Christian. Serving on the steering committee for The Woodlands Hills Community Church, I am amazed how the different gifts all work together. Serving on this committee (and writing this devotion) has caused me to step outside my comfort zone. This has caused me to strengthen my faith, and not to dream but to do! I know “God’s Got This”!

Ask:

When God is calling you to use your gifts, do you “Show Up” to further the kingdom of Christ?

Pray:

God, thank you for your faithfulness in our lives. Bind us together as one team, as we work together to make Christ known in our community. Grant us the courage to follow Your leading and wisdom to discern Your will. In Jesus name, Amen.



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A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

42 DAYS

Day Thirty-Three

LUKE 14:23

Rev. Susan Kent

Pause:

How far am I willing to go to reach people with the message of Christ?

Read:

Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. Luke 14:23

Consider:

This story, told by Jesus, is not just a word of encouragement, it's a command. The master of the house has sent his servant out beyond the gates of the town to the people who had not received an invitation to his master's table. This servant had to put a lot of effort to reach these people. He had to do more than most others and he was happy to do it. And yet, why did the master send him? So that his house would be full. The master wants his house, his kingdom, to be filled with all people He won't rest until everyone has been reached.

Ask:

Where might God send you if you're willing? What would be the roads and the country lanes in your area?

Pray:

Father, thank you for sending us out in your name to fill Your house. I pray that my feet would not get tired and that I would find those who need an invitation to your table. Amen



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A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

42 DAYS

Day Thirty-Four

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8

John Ploetz

Pause: What is your mindset as you experience hardships? Lord, may we keep our focus on you always! Help us to endure through challenging times, fully engage with our church community and continue to share your Good News with others!

Read: In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. 2 Timothy 4:1-8

Consider: After decades of persecution due to his bold actions spreading the gospel, Paul was again imprisoned in Rome. He was aware that he was soon to be martyred as he wrote the above scripture in what would be his last letter, 2 Timothy. Was his focus on his own interests or on wallowing in self-pity? Not in the slightest! Instead, he maintained an eternal perspective and let the Holy Spirit strengthen him and drive his actions. He kept the faith and encouraged the church to remain steadfast. Paul foretold that people would strive to deviate from sound doctrine to find a way to support their own sinful, worldly desires. This behavior and threat to sound doctrine continues today! As Paul saw the end of his earthly life nearing, he focused on the following priorities: persevering in service to the Lord, expanding the kingdom, and strengthening the church body, preparing it to fight against false doctrine. We should do the same, emphasizing Endurance, Evangelism and Encouragement!

Ask:
Even in difficult times, how can you, like Paul, keep your focus on Christ?

Pray:

Dear Lord, please help us to fight the good fight and finish the race! Pour out your Holy Spirit to help us all to persevere through hardships, strengthen each other, and share the gospel, so that we all may wear the crown of righteousness!



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A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

42 DAYS

Day Thirty-Five

GALATIANS 6:9-10

Nancy Person

Pause: What is your mindset as you experience hardships? Lord, may we keep our focus on you always! Help us to endure through challenging times, fully engage with our church community and continue to share your Good News with others!

Read: In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. 2 Timothy 4:1-8

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A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

42 DAYS

Day Thirty-Six

EPHESIANS 3:17-21

Robert Lloyd

Pause:

Today as we connect to the Divine let us focus with gratitude on the power of Christ's love for all his creation. Though he knows our wants and needs, it is a relationship through prayer he demonstrates that love by meeting our needs abundantly.

Read:

so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 17-21

Consider:

How am I demonstrating a Relationship with Christ? What am I doing today that demonstrates my faith? Do I know in my heart he wants to bless me beyond measure through prayer? Am I sharing the Good News in my daily affairs?

Ask:

Do I understand what the Lord wants me to learn from this scripture? Am I willing to ask in Sunday School or Bible Study for guidance?

Pray:

Heavenly Father guide me in understanding your will for me daily. Help me to demonstrate an unshakeable faith. Give me awareness to share your love in my daily activities. Draw me closer to you in prayer knowing that you can do immeasurably more than I could ever imagine. In Jesus name, Amen



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42 DAYS

Day Thirty-Seven

ACTS 16:30-32

Danilo Vasques

Pause:

I firmly believe that God is working supernaturally in our church and in the efficacy of prayer and the study of His word. It is a great pleasure to join God's purpose in our church through this small devotional with all of you. God, I believe You will guide us to bring the good news of salvation today as You did in the past. Amen.

Read:

In this portion of Scripture, we find the most important question that every human being must ask: What must I do to be saved? Because salvation is for the glory of God and, as His creation, we must give Him glory. It was necessary for Paul and Silas to be in that prison to show humanity how we can be saved. Here we are taught that good works are not enough for man's salvation. If the most important question is, What must I do to be saved? Then the most important answer is "Believe in the Lord Jesus." There is nothing more than Jesus Christ for our salvation, and this obviously leads us to repentance and to change our way of thinking and living. The gospel can reach our families, friends, etc., through us. That is why it is necessary to testify with our way of life, as Paul and Silas did, living a life of worship to the Lord. Therefore, whatever our life condition, it will lead others to want to know our Savior.

Consider:

How am I demonstrating a Relationship with Christ? What am I doing today that demonstrates my faith? Do I know in my heart he wants to bless me beyond measure through prayer? Am I sharing the Good News in my daily affairs?

Ask:

Are we thinking and living today according to the faith we profess?

Pray:

Lord, I pray that in our church, Jesus will be the center of our lives and that Your Holy Spirit will always guide us to live and think in the best way. Help us day by day to increase our faith and give the best testimony of the faith we profess, bringing Your word to those who need it. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.



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A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

42 DAYS

Day Thirty-Eight

MARK 11:24

Scott Stephenson

Pause:

As we begin the devotional for today take a moment to prepare your heart for what the Holy Spirit may stir in you. Lord as we seek your face today, show us the work that you want to do within our hearts, within the hearts of those around us, and within the heart of our congregation. Amen.

Read:

"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." (Mark 11:24)

Consider:

We often forget how bold Jesus is in His teachings. But when we approach passages like Mark 11, we are quickly reminded of the boldness of our savior and the boldness of belief that He calls us to. What would it look like if we, as a congregation, prayed boldly? What if we genuinely believed that the Lord hears our prayers and that He can answer them? Not only is the Lord capable of answering our prayers but he genuinely wants to answer them. When we ask for something in the name of Jesus, if it is within the will of the Father, it will be given us. This is a bold statement (and a hard teaching) but it is true. What would First Methodist Conroe look like if we continued on this path of bold prayer and believing together? What would the communities of Conroe and The Woodlands Hills look like if we prayed boldly for them?

Ask:

What is the Lord asking you to pray boldly for?

Pray:

Father, we know that you can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Through the power of your Holy Spirit give us the boldness to approach your throne and ask for all things in your name. Jesus help us in our unbelief to embrace the power of prayer. Allow us to be your vessels of prayer in the advancement of your Kingdom. Amen.



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A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

42 DAYS

Day Thirty-Nine

ACTS 2:37-41

Cheryl Puddy

Pause: Have you ever wondered why the power of the Holy Spirit in the Acts of the Apostles seems to be absent in the believers of today? Is He any less powerful now than He was then? If not, then what needs to change? Lord, prepare our hearts to receive Your Holy Spirit and to be a people You can utilize. Amen

Read: When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. Acts 2:37-41

Consider: What kind of person receives the Holy Spirit? Paul says the one who:
1) repents, which, according to Websters, means to “turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one’s life.” So it’s more than just “I’m sorry. Forgive me.”
2) and is baptized.

But then, with many other words he warned them and pleaded with them to:

3) save themselves from this corrupt generation.

Our lives have to change! If we needed to repent to receive the Holy Spirit, then maybe the condition of our heart matters. The Living Bible says “we must turn from sin and return to God.” Who of us commits no more sin after that initial repentance and baptism? So maybe the Holy Spirit needs a continually repentant heart to thrive?

Ask:
As you consider what Paul says, are there areas of your life that need to change, that you need to turn away from and turn back to God? Do you need to be baptized?

Pray:

Lord, show us the areas of our lives that are not pleasing to you and give us the courage and desire to change. Help us to become a people filled with the Holy Spirit. Amen



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A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

42 DAYS

Day Forty

MATTHEW 9:35-38

Michelle Fritz

Pause:

Do you feel like the weight of the world is on your shoulders? Do feel like you are doing all the work while everyone else seems to be just standing around? Or are you the one the Lord is asking to come help harvest the field?

Read:

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Matthew 9:35-38

Consider:

When I read this scripture, it makes me ask am I the one that needs to ask God or am I the one God is asking? I believe that we are not meant to complete the task or mission of God by ourselves. Nor are we to see how it will be completed. Our task is to ask God to send out the others to help to complete His mission or answer the call to come to the mission.

Ask:
Are you asking God to send helpers? Are you answering the call to come to the harvest field to help?

Pray:

Gracious God, We ask you to bring the workers to come to the harvest field to help do your work of the Church. Also, help us to know when you are calling us to come to the field to work. I want to be your worker and ask for you to send more helpers as we plant this new church for your harvest. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen



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A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

42 DAYS

Day Forty-One

JOHN 4:35-36

Barbara Holt

Pause:

Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, "I will build my church." We want to build our church....But as we meditate on Christ's words we can focus on each word individually and know that it is His church and He will build it. Lord, use us today to reach someone for you that they may see your love through us and become faithful followers and members of Your church.

Read:

"Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together." John 4:35-36

Consider:

Growing up in a farming area of Pennsylvania, Harvest was a time of celebration. The Harvest Jubilee was one event I enjoyed with my family, parade and all. As we look at our world today it seems to be falling apart but as we study scripture we see it falling into place for the time when Christ will return. The fields are "ready". Trust Him to guide you. Ask Him for opportunities to share. Live the life He has given you and be grateful. Show others you care. Ask people how they are doing or how their day is going...the grocery clerk, the postal worker, your neighbor, a visitor at church...Indeed the fields are white for harvest. Many today are looking for answers and we know the one who has the answers.

Ask:

Are you ready to share the hope He has given you today?

Pray:

Lord, we know we need to be about your business. Help us to be faithful followers and proclaimers with our lives. We trust you to guide us by your Spirit and we will be thankful and praise you for it all. Glory to God. Amen



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A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

42 DAYS

Day Forty-Two

MATTHEW 5:14-16

Kelli Taglioli

Pause: Have you ever stopped to ponder what kind of influence or impact you have on those around you? This could be family members, those closest to you or perhaps co-workers or other acquaintances. Even simple interactions with random strangers. Maybe someone you had a brief exchange with while standing in line at the grocery store or while sitting in the waiting room at a doctor's visit. How is being a disciple of Christ like being a city on a hill?

Read: You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16

Consider: Our identity in Christ is more than just sitting in our pews on Sunday morning, listening to a sermon, saying a few prayers, and receiving the holy sacraments. Jesus tells us that as His chosen people, His disciples, we are called to a higher purpose. Together we are the body of Christ, empowered and equipped by the Holy Spirit, to be a beacon of light for all the world. God blesses us with our unique traits and spiritual gifts so that we may go out and make a positive difference. That we may bring hope and help illuminate the path of salvation for others who walk in darkness. This is our calling, our responsibility.

Ask:
As you encounter the world each day, where are you a reflection of Jesus's kindness and compassion for others? Where might there be an opportunity to show love and grace to someone who's un-awakened to God's presence? Do you wait to be asked to serve or do you look for opportunities each day to be the hands and feet of Christ? Do you share your personal experiences and beliefs with others, giving testimony to God's goodness? Where there is darkness, do you cast light?

Pray: Lord, Father in heaven, thank you for sending your one and only son to teach us your ways. May we be bold, courageous and faithful followers, sensitive to your calling. May we have eyes to see the needs before us and open hearts ready to respond with love, grace and kindness. Teach us to walk humbly and live obediently; that we may bring glory and honor to you. May we be the city sitting high on a hill, a beacon of hope and light, casted for those shrouded in darkness, to find their way home. In Christ's name, Amen.



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