



# Weekly Devotions & Study Guides

## *“A Pinch of Saffron”- All Saints Sunday*

### **Monday, November 2 Read Psalm 34:1-10**

V. 8 is rather interesting in its use of the word “taste.” Reflect for a moment on how taste works and the rich and complex way it creates an experience (think of your favorite food, restaurant, a savored flavor). With that in mind, why did the psalmist use this particular verb here? \_\_\_\_\_

What might this tell us about how we can and are called to experience God and God’s goodness? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Tuesday November 3 Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

To our extremely materialistic culture, death is the ultimate evil. It is the thing over which we have no control, the thing that shows the uselessness of our acquisitiveness and which we can only face through faith. Paul reminds his own fearful congregants that death is not an end but a natural part of God’s eternal plan. How can we fulfill v. 18 and find comfort here? \_\_\_\_\_

How are you strengthened in life with this knowledge? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Wednesday, November 4 Read Revelation 7:9-17**

At the heart of this mystical vision, indeed of the whole of the Book of Revelation, is the crucial fact that our lives, our souls, our very existence is ultimately in the hands of the supreme and victorious God. How does this fundamental truth shape- in real ways- the life you lead now? \_\_\_\_\_

How does it shape your relationships with friends, family, strangers, even enemies? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Sermon notes for**

#### **“A Pinch of Saffron”**

**November 1, 2020**

- 1. Trust in God, as well as any subsequent joy and happiness is based on:**
  - A. ...actively seeking experiences with God**
  - B. ...defining “good” as conforming to God’s way.**
  - C. ...shaping ourselves around praise and thanksgiving.**
- 2. Our trust is confirmed through the loving action of Jesus.**

**Thursday, November 5 Read 1 John 3:1-3**

Most of our fear stems not from what we know (even bad things), but from the unknown and uncertain. That’s the sort of fear that hinders us from bold living and proactive discipleship. What solution does John offer here to that sort of fearful inertia? \_\_\_\_\_

In what ways is it helpful to remember that we are beloved children of God? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday, November 6 Read Matthew 5:1-12**

These Beatitudes, or “blessings” are not a call to revel in unhappiness or misery. They are a call to shape an attitude and lifestyle that looks for God in the midst of challenges and understands that God is still working and working for ultimate good. Too often we judge success by how comfortable we are! Why is such an perspective dangerous to faith and a growth of discipleship? \_\_\_\_\_

Which of these blessings speaks most to you and why? \_\_\_\_\_

What is God trying to say to you? \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday, November 7 Read Psalm 70**

Reflect for a moment on something that is a challenge or difficulty for you. It might also be something about which you have some fear or worry. Ask: What am I specifically afraid of or worried about? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Now prayerfully reread this psalm as a response to those concerns and be sure to listen and look throughout the day for God’s answer.

**An Exercise in Thankfulness...**

Without thinking about it too long, quickly write ten things for which you feel blessed or thankful right this moment.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

*Now say a prayer of thanks to God for each of these, telling God precisely what you are thankful for. If it’s a person, how will you show them your appreciation?*