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The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Greg Finke founder of Dwelling 1:14
talks about two missional environments, five missional practices, and five missional questions.

Two Environments:

1) Missional Neighboring

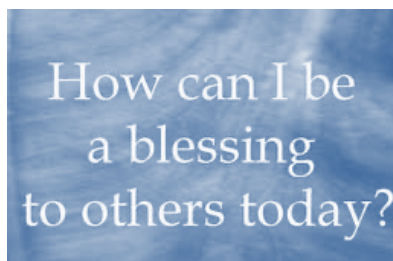
2) Missional Communities

The Five Missional Practices:

- 1) Seeking the Kingdom (discovering what God is *already* doing in your community)
- 2) Listening to Jesus (what is God telling you)
- 3) Talking with People
- 4) Doing Good
- 5) Ministering through Prayer

The Five Missional Questions:

- 1) How have you seen God at work in your life and in your missional neighborhood(s) this last week? What's He up to and how can you join Him?
- 2) What is God teaching you through His Word and in your life experience? How is God "*messing*" with you? What's He saying to you: assuring you? ...comforting you? ...convicting you? ...nudging you? ...challenging you? ...inviting you?
- 3) What conversations are you having with people outside your normal circle(s), especially pre-Christian people?
- 4) What good can you/we do today? Who needs a blessing? What are you doing about it?
- 5) For whom are you praying, particularly pre-Christians? How can we support you in prayer?



Loving People to Jesus

What Is a Missional Neighborhood?

Missional Neighborhoods are the neighborhoods and the environments, in which we live, work, and play and they include all the people that we meet within them. These are the people we meet or have an opportunity to meet on a fairly regular basis. They are the places in which, and the people with whom, we strive consistently and regularly to live out the five missional practices.

What Is a Missional Community?

A Missional Community is not a typical small group Bible study, rather it is small group that meets to support and encourage one another in and for missional living (living out the missional practices) in our everyday lives. The time together is spent in sharing *God stories* as group members consider the five missional questions: (1) Where/how you seen or experienced God recently in your neighborhood, at work, or in your social/recreational settings? We want to join God in what He is already doing. (2) What has God been saying and communicating to you in life and *particularly* in and through His Word? (3) With whom are you having conversations and enjoying relationship (particularly *those* without a community of faith)? (4) Where or with whom have you had or do you have the opportunity to do good, to be a blessing, to make a difference? (5) For whom are you praying (again, particularly those without a community of faith)? In a missional community we support, encourage and lovingly hold one another accountable for living missionally in our neighborhoods, our places of work, and our social and recreational settings.

The Church does not have a mission. The MISSION has a CHURCH to accomplish the mission.
We are that Church!!! (a paraphrasing of Alan Hirsch)

Looking for a Missional Neighborhood?

Missional neighborhoods come in many forms (the people living close to your home, the people with whom you work or go to school, the people at your recreation or health center, the list goes on and on). However, in addition to those people with whom you normally live, work, and play...

You might consider adopting one of Mt Olive's Focus Outreach Ministries:

BROOKVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Point Person, Bill Cullen (815) 713-7072

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church has partnered with Brookview Elementary School, through Kids Hope USA, to make a positive impact on the lives of children at Brookview. Through Kids Hope USA our members have the opportunity to be trained and paired with an at-risk child in a supportive mentoring relationship. Our partnership with Brookview, however, extends beyond Kids Hope USA and the mentoring of children to being a blessing at Brookview School in a variety of ways. To learn more about [Kids Hope USA go to https://kidshopeusa.org/](https://kidshopeusa.org/).

ROCKFORD RESCUE MISSION – Point Person, Vicki Naretta (815) 988-1723

Volunteers have the opportunity to work with the homeless at the mission. We annually serve sack dinners at Rockford Rescue Mission. In Mt. Olive's "Welcome Area" there is an "Always Need" donation bin where we are always collecting shampoo and body lotion. We also make it a priority to respond to requests made by Rockford Rescue Mission (e.g., request for donated items and for assistance at their thrift store). For more information on the [Rockford Rescue Mission go to https://www.rockfordrescuemission.org/](https://www.rockfordrescuemission.org/).

CARPENTER'S PLACE – Point Person, Bill Milligan (515) 401-7471

Carpenter's Place is a ministry that serves the homeless of Rockford.

- On the third Monday of each month our congregation provides lunch for approximately 100 people at Carpenter's Place.
- On the fourth Friday of each month we lead a chapel service.

We regularly make contributions of donated items (everything from clothes, to furniture, to toiletries).

There is also opportunity teach a Bible class, help with inventorying donations, collecting donations, or simply befriending the guests at Carpenter's Place-offering them encouragement and support. To learn more about the ministry and services of Carpenter Place go to <https://www.carpentersplace.org/>.

YOUTH FOR CHRIST – Point Person, Alyssa Newton (815) 978-5789

Youth for Christ's stated mission is Stateline YFC exists for one reason: To reach youth throughout the Stateline area with the gospel of Jesus Christ and in doing so bring gospel-centered transformation to the Stateline area. To learn more about the ministry and services of Youth for Christ talk with Alyssa Newton or go to <https://www.statelineyfc.org/>.

- † *Mt. Olive's Board of Outreach asks all Boards, Standing Committees, and Bible study groups to adopt one of Mt. Olive's four focus outreach ministries listed above as one of their missional neighborhoods. We ask Boards, Committees, and Bible study groups at least twice/year to be a tangible presence of God and blessing of God in their chose focus missional neighborhood.*

What Does It Mean to Adopt a Focus Ministry as a Missional Neighborhood

1. A “missional neighborhood” is a grouping of people that you as an individual, as a missional community, as a group (e.g. a Board, a Committee, a Bible study group), or an organization (e.g. Mt. Olive Lutheran Church) believe God has given you for you to invest your time, talents, and treasures that you might be a blessing and an expression of God’s love. (John 13:34-35; John 15:16-17; James 4:17; 1 John 3:16-18; 1 John 4:7-21)
2. Think of your focus neighborhood through the lens of Finke’s five missional questions/practices. (1) What is God already doing in the neighborhood? (2) What is God telling/showing you in the Scriptures about serving the neighborhood? (3) With whom are you talking/forming relationship(s) in the neighborhood? (4) What opportunity do you have to be a blessing in the neighborhood? (5) How are you praying for the neighborhood?
3. Being a blessing and an expression of God’s love can take many forms (everything from helping a little old lady carry her groceries to telling someone about how Jesus died for the sins of all humankind and rose again to offer all people a new and eternal life in Him).
4. Being a blessing to people almost always begins with listening to them and discovering their need(s). Jesus would frequently ask people He encountered, “What do you want me to do for you?” (Matthew 20:32; Mark 10:36; Mark 10:51; Luke 18:41; John 5:6 – Note: Jesus would ask this question not because He didn’t know, but to bring clarity to and for the asker). **Listen!** **Observe!** **Respond!**
5. As an individual and/or as a group ask “What can I/we do to be a blessing?” Then look and listen for opportunities. Ask those you seek to serve “What can I/we do to be a blessing in your life?”
6. Some specific ideas:
 - Send greeting cards: Christmas cards, Valentines card, Easter cards, birthday cards, etc.
 - Buy winter gloves, scarfs, sweaters, and/or coats.
 - Buy school supplies: paper, pencils, erasers, color markers, rulers, backpacks, etc.
 - Arrange for and/or conduct clothing drives, food drives, etc.
 - Get on the mailing list/newsletter list of the service organization through which they frequently will express their most felt and immediate needs.
 - Volunteer at RRM Thrift Store.
 - Inventory donations for Carpenter’s place.
 - Serve as a mentor or prayer partner at Brookview school and/or get involved in the other events we do their (contact Bill Cullen for a list)
 - Provide money for Carpenter’s Place lunches
 - Help serve lunch at Carpenter’s Place
 - We always provide a sack dinner the 1st Sunday of the year at RRM, you might want to arrange for doing another time as well
 - David Roskowic leads chapel at Carpenter’s Place the 4th Friday of the month, go with him and visit with the “guests” who come (“guests” is what Carpenter’s Place calls those they seek to serve).
 - The 3rd Monday of each month we provide lunch at Carpenter and also help serve it. We might also eat and visit with the “guests” there. Perhaps you might select a “guest” or two and take them out to lunch.
 - Offer to lead a Bible study at Carpenter’s Place
 - Talk with Alyssa Newton about providing food for Youth for Christ weekly meetings and/or helping with their weekly meetings as a participant
 - Be a “big brother” or “big sister” to/for a youth from Youth for Christ
 - Be an emergency shelter home for a youth from Youth for Christ
 - Buy Bibles and give them to those you serve. Perhaps make an index of particular passages and insert it in the front of the Bibles or perhaps highlight certain passages in the Bibles.
 - Ask leaders of the service organizations for names of individuals who are in need of comfort, encouragement, etc., then write them (perhaps on a regular basis) an encouraging letter or an encouragement card. Include an encouraging bible verse.

The opportunities to be a blessing are endless. If we take time to listen and observe both the individuals we are seeking to serve and the organizational leaders, the opportunities to serve will become increasingly evident.

EACH ONE REACH ONE

Our Board of Outreach would like to introduce an **EACH ONE REACH ONE** campaign and to have the concept of **EACH ONE REACH ONE** become a part of the DNA of Mt. Olive and Concordia Lutheran Churches. **Each One Reach One** is to help us develop and enact a missional mindset and to add an element of intentionality to our love, care, and witness to people in our lives.

Jesus tells us in John 13:34-35 *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another"* (NIV) and our congregation's mission statement is summed up in the words *"Loving People to Jesus."* Love is what Christianity is all about and what we strive to be about here at Mt. Olive.

We all want people to know and to experience God's love incarnate in the person and work of Jesus. Jesus in John 15:16-17 says, *"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last.... This is my command: Love each other."*

Although we may not be able to make a difference in the lives of everyone we encounter, each of us can make a difference in someone's life. **EACH ONE REACH ONE** is an effort to help us make that difference. We are asking all of our members to identify two families (one family within our fellowship here at Mt. Olive and one family that is unchurched) with whom they very intentionally and consistent will strive to communicate God's love for the people, for them. Naturally, we would pray that you would love everyone you encounter, but in the busyness of your life we are asking that you make a very concerted effort through word and deed to love the people in the two families you identify.

Greg Finke has developed a tool (see reverse side) you might find helpful as you strive to love the families you identified. He calls it our "Five Point Friend."

Monthly the Board of Outreach will suggest an idea or two that you might consider as you strive to meaningfully love the families you have identified.

Gary Chapman has identified five "love languages." He believes that everyone has a primary way (language) through which they hear/experience love. The five languages he suggests are: (1) words of affirmation, (2) quality time, (3) acts of service, (4) gifts, and (5) physical touch. If you can, learn the love language of the members of the families you have identified and then in the days, months, years ahead share your love and God's love through their love language.

We are excited to see what God is going to do as together we make this concert effort to love.
May God be with you as we **EACH** strive to **REACH ONE** with the love of Jesus.

"I am only one, but I am one.
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.
And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do."
Edward Everett Hale

Everyone is encouraged to have a “Five-Point Friend”

Greg Finke also talks about have a “five-point friend.”

Five Point Friend _____



About Your Friend...

1. What does s/he say about God and/or religion?

2. To the best of your knowledge, what does s/he really think about God and/or religion?

3. What does s/he wonder about? What wondering questions does s/he have?

4. What is s/he afraid of?

5. To the best of your knowledge is s/he aware something is missing?

6. What is something you can do to show your friend love in a tangible way?

48 Pages of Select Bible Passages

Page 10-57 are 48 one-page selections of Bible passages. (Page 9 is a generic study guide) Each page is meant to be used independent of the other pages for personal reflection and group discussion. These one-page reflection sheets were developed with missional communities in mind as their community members reflect upon and share their thoughts in regard to Greg Finke's second missional question: *"What is God showing you in His Word?"* or Finke's preferred way of expressing the question: *"How has God been messing with you?"* Read them with your call to mission/witness in mind.

As you reflect upon Finke's question(s) and as you reflect upon the verses being considered, you may find God wanting to comfort you – assure you – empower you – inspire you – convict you – challenge you – teach or instruct you – all of the above – or maybe something else entirely, but be assured God **IS** wanting to speak to you. *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear"* (Mark 4:9). *"Speak Lord, Your servant is listening"* (1 Samuel 3:10). *"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says"* (James 1:22).

As you read the passages ask yourself:

- What do these verses individually and when taken together say or suggest about God's mission and about my/our part in it?
- What is God wanting me/us to hear? What is God wanting me/us to know? What is God wanting me/us to believe? What is God wanting me/us to do?
- In any or all of these passages, what is God saying to me in regard to my missional neighborhood(s)?
- Is there a common denominator/theme? If so, what is it? How do the passages when taken together help us better understand the theme or common denominator?
- What question(s), if any, do these passages raise for me?
- How can/might any or all of these passages help me this week to better live missionally in my missional neighborhood(s) and among anyone and everyone I meet: family, friends, colleagues, neighbors, and even my enemies? How can they help me love my neighbor as Jesus love me and love her/him?



Reflection and Share

Sheet for Missional Communities

1. Underline words or phrases in the passages selected for the day that catch your attention at this time.
2. As you reflect on the selected passages consider the Finke and Luecke questions below (see #3) and...
 - Put a question mark ? by any passage(s) that raise questions for you and you would like to discuss.
 - Put an asterisk * by the passage that most speaks to you today. Explain.
3. In addition to the second Finke question, choose two of the remaining questions Finke/Luecke questions and share your response with the group. (Do not choose the same two questions every week.)

Greg Finke:

- What has God been up to in your missional neighborhood? How has God been ripening the fields getting them ready for harvest: plowing, fertilizing, and cultivating (preparing the soil), planting, watering, weeding, pruning, reaping, etc.)? How has God already been at work preparing the way for you in advancing His Kingdom?
 - How has God been “*messing*” with you, particularly through His Word? What “*holy discontent*” has the Spirit been generating within you? What does/will it mean for you to be a “*doer*” of the Word? Are you listening?
 - With whom are you having conversation? What relationship(s) in your missional neighborhood are you nurturing through conversation (in a large part means *listening* – “be quick to listen, slow to speak” – James 1:19)? How’s it going?
 - For whom in your missional neighborhood have you recently been a blessing? How? What opportunity do you have to be a blessing (an instrument of God’s presence and love – Matthew 10:7-8) for someone in your missional neighborhood? Elaborate and explain.
 - For whom in your missional neighborhood are you praying? For whom in your missional neighborhood would you like us to pray? How can we support you in prayer? How would you like us to pray for you in your life as an everyday missionary? Spend time in prayer.
-

Dave Luecke:

- What “*challenge*” has God set before you or is God setting before you? To what degree are you “*owning*” the challenge? Explain.
- For what “*Kingdom Adventure*” is God asking/inviting you to “*trust*” Him and to “*join*” Him? How’s it going???



A Generic Bible Study Guide

*"The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me;
it has hands, it lays hold of me." – Martin Luther*



"Speak Lord, Your Servant Is Listening" (1 Samuel 3:10).

Underline or highlight words you find particularly significant in the passages.

As they apply, complete the sentence stems below: (feel free to be selective)

1. The audience addressed & the context of the passage(s), both historically and within the chapter, suggest...
2. A common denominator that seems to run through many of the passages is....
3. A related or some related Scripture passage(s) that come to mind are....
4. These passages seem to align or not align with the historical teaching of church of or in...
5. These passages seem to align or not align with contemporary society's thinking of or in...
6. These passages would have me understand my vocation of loving my neighbor to mean....
7. A new or renewed thought for me is....
8. In at least one verse, something I found to be unique, surprising and/or challenging is....
9. As I reflect upon these passages, a question I have is....
10. If God is serious here and means for me to take these passages seriously,....
11. In light of these passages "living a life worthy of my calling/vocation/mission" means....
12. In the light of what God is telling/showing me in these passages I think, feel, and/or believe....
13. In and by the empowering grace of God I will....

If through a passage you feel God... (explain).

- | | | |
|-------|--|--------------|
| i. | convicting you, ----- | mark it "C". |
| ii. | disturbing you, ----- | mark it "D". |
| iii. | inspiring or challenging you, ----- | mark it "I". |
| iv. | forgiving and/or comforting you, ----- | mark it "F". |
| v. | guiding you, giving you direction, ----- | mark it "G". |
| vi. | sending or commissioning you for mission or service, ----- | mark it "S". |
| | • To/for whom or what are you being sent _____ | |
| vii. | empowering you, ----- | mark it "E". |
| viii. | The passage that is the most meaningful for you today----- | mark it *. |

God Seeks to Make a CASE

Through Scripture God Seeks to... (2 Tim 3:15-17)

(make/birth—teach—rebuke—correct—train)

CASE = **C**onvict us of our sin

Assure us of His grace and forgiveness

Stretch us for growth (transformation)

Empower us for action

Bill Cullen's Goals in and for Bible study:

1. Participants experience the presence and touch of God.
2. Participants leave wanting to return.
3. Participants leave wanting to respond to God's touch.
4. Participants experience being a part of the Body of Christ.
5. Participants gain some sort of Biblical knowledge and/or insight.

1

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion (All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Isaiah 6:8** ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

___ **Matthew 4:19** ¹⁹ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

___ **Matthew 9:36-38** ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

___ **Matthew 10:7-8** ⁷ As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

___ **John 4:35** ³⁵ Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

___ **John 14:6** ⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

___ **1 Corinthians 3:6-8,11** ⁶ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. ⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸ The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose,... ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers.... ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

___ **Galatians 6:2,9-10** ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.... ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

___ **Ephesians 2:8-10** ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

___ **Ephesians 4:1,16** ¹ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.... ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

___ **Philippians 2:12-13** ¹² ...continue to work out your salvation... ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

___ **Colossians 4:5-6** ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

___ **1 Thessalonians 4:9-10** ⁹ Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God? to love each other. ¹⁰ And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more.

___ **James 1:22** ²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

2

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion (All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Micah 6:8** ⁸ He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

___ **Matthew 9:11-13** ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" ¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

___ **Matthew 12:36-37** ³⁶ But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. ³⁷ For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

___ **Matthew 28:19-20** ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

___ **Mark 10:42-45** ⁴² Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." freely give.

___ **John 15:8,12,16-17** ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.... ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

___ **Acts 20:20** ²⁰ You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.

___ **Ephesians 3:14-19** ¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

___ **1 Timothy 2:3-6** ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time.

___ **Hebrews 10:24-25** ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another....

___ **1 John 3:16,18** ¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.... ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

3

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **1 Samuel 15:22** ²² But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

___ **Matthew 25:35-40** ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' ³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?' ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' ⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

___ **Mark 3:14-15** ¹⁴ He appointed twelve--designating them apostles--that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and to have authority to drive out demons.

___ **Mark 5:19** ¹⁹ Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."

___ **Luke 4:18** ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,

___ **Luke 9:1-2** ¹ When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, ² and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

___ **John 17:15-18** ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

___ **Acts 1:8** ⁸ 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."

___ **Romans 3:23-25** ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—

___ **Galatians 5:6** ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

___ **Ephesians 3:20** ²⁰ [He] is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

___ **1 John 1:7-9** ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

___ **James 4:17** ¹⁷ Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

4

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **1 Samuel 3:10** ¹⁰ The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

___ **Luke 10:1-3** ¹ After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ² He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. ³ Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.

___ **Luke 15:1-7** ¹ Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

___ **John 1:14** ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

___ **John 13:12-17** ¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

___ **Romans 5:6-8** ⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

___ **Ephesians 4:29** ²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

___ **Ephesians 4:32** ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

___ **Ephesians 5:15-16** ¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

___ **2 Timothy 3:15-17** ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

___ **1 John 2:2** ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

5

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion (All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Psalms 46:10** ¹⁰ "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

___ **Luke 19:10** ¹⁰ "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

___ **John 13:34-35** ³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

___ **Romans 10:14-15,17** ¹⁴ 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? ¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"
...¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

___ **Romans 12:14-15** ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

___ **1 Corinthians 13:4-8** ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

___ **Colossians 1:24-29** ²⁴ Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— ²⁶ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

___ **Colossians 3:16** ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

___ **2 Timothy 2:14-16** ¹⁴ Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. ¹⁶ Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.

___ **1 John 1:1-4** ¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.

___ **1 John 4:7-8** ⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

6

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Joshua 1:9** ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

___ **Mark 4:9** ⁹ Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

___ **John 14:27** ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

___ **John 15:4-5** ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

___ **1 Corinthians 13:13** ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

___ **1 Corinthians 16:14** ¹⁴ Do everything in love.

___ **2 Corinthians 5:17-20** ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

___ **2 Corinthians 12:8-10** ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

___ **Galatians 2:20** ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

___ **Philippians 2:3-8** ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

___ **2 Timothy 2:23-25** ²³ Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. ²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. ²⁵ Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,

___ **1 John 4:18** ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

7

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion (All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Psalms 119:105 (NIV)** ¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

___ **Matthew 5:16** ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

___ **John 3:16-17** ¹⁶ "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. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

___ **John 16:33** ³³ "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

___ **Romans 8:37-39** ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

___ **Romans 12:17-18** ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

___ **1 Corinthians 10:13** ¹³ No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

___ **Philippians 1:21** ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

___ **Hebrews 12:1-2** ¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

___ **James 1:19,26** ¹⁹ My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,... ²⁶ If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is... worthless.

___ **1 Peter 3:15** ¹⁵ But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

___ **1 Peter 4:8** ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

___ **1 Peter 4:12** ¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.

___ **1 Peter 4:19** ¹⁹ So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

8

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)** ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

___ **Matthew 11:28-30** ²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

___ **Luke 9:23** ²³ Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

___ **John 12:47** ⁴⁷ "As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it.

___ **Acts 4:12** ¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

___ **Romans 1:16** ¹⁶ I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

___ **Romans 12:21** ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

___ **2 Corinthians 3:4-6** ⁴ Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. ⁵ Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. ⁶ He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant--not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

___ **2 Timothy 4:2** ² Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.

___ **Titus 2:11-14** ¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

___ **Titus 3:4-6** ⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

___ **1 Peter 5:8** ⁸ Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

___ **2 Peter 1:3-4** ³ His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

9

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Proverbs 10:19 (NIV)** ¹⁹ When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.

___ **Romans 6:11,13** ¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.... ¹³ Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

___ **Romans 8:1-2** ¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

___ **Romans 14:1** ¹ Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.

___ **Galatians 5:13-14** ¹³ You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. ¹⁴ The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

___ **Philippians 1:9** ⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,

___ **Philippians 3:12-16** ¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

___ **Colossians 2:6-8** ⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

___ **1 Timothy 1:15** ¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst.

___ **James 1:5-8** ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

___ **1 John 1:7-9** ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

___ **1 John 4:9-10** ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

10

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Jeremiah 31:3** ³ The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.

___ **Luke 6:27-31** ²⁷ "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

___ **Romans 15:1-2** ¹ We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ² Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

___ **1 Corinthians 9:19-22** ¹⁹ Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹ To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.

___ **2 Corinthians 5:21** ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

___ **Galatians 3:27** ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

___ **Galatians 5:22-23,25** ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control.... ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

___ **Colossians 3:12-14** ¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

___ **Philippians 1:6** ⁶ 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 4:12-13** ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

___ **1 John 3:1-2** ¹ How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

___ **1 John 4:11-12** ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

11

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion (All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Psalms 86:15** ¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

___ **Psalms 136:26** ²⁶ Give thanks to the God of heaven. *His love endures forever.*

___ **Isaiah 54:10** ¹⁰ Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

___ **Jeremiah 31:3** ³ The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.

___ **John 3:16-17** ¹⁶ "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. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

___ **John 15:9** ⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

___ **John 13:1-5** ¹ It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love....
⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

___ **Romans 5:7-8** ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

___ **Romans 8:37-39** ³⁷ ...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

___ **Galatians 2:20** ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

___ **Ephesians 2:4-5** ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved.

___ **Ephesians 3:17-19** ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

___ **1 John 4:7-19** ⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.... ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

12

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Deuteronomy 6:4-5** ⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

___ **Leviticus 19:18** ¹⁸ "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

___ **Matthew 5:43-44** ⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

___ **Matthew 22:37-40** ³⁷ Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

___ **Mark 12:28-31** ²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" ²⁹ "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

___ **Luke 10:25-28** ²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" ²⁷ He answered: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" ²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

___ **John 13:34-35** ³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

___ **John 15:12,17** ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.... ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

___ **Romans 13:8-10** ⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

___ **1 Corinthians 13:4-13** ¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² 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 have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails.... ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

___ **1 Corinthians 16:14** ¹⁴ Do everything in love.

13

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion (All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Galatians 5:6** ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

___ **Galatians 6:2** ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

___ **Ephesians 5:1-2** ¹ Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

___ **Ephesians 5:21** ²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

___ **Colossians 3:12-14** ¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

___ **1 Thessalonians 4:9-10** ⁹ Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. ¹⁰ And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more.

___ **James 2:8** ⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.

___ **1 Peter 4:8** ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

___ **1 John 2:10-11** ¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. ¹¹ But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

___ **1 John 3:16-18,23** ¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

___ **1 John 4:7-21** ⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. ¹³ We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.... ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.... ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

___ **1 John 5:2** ² This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.

14

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Exodus 19:6** ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

___ **Isaiah 33:22** ²² For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; it is he who will save us.

___ **Matthew 3:1-2** ¹ In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea ² and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

___ **Matthew 4:17** ¹⁷ From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

___ **Matthew 6:10** ¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

___ **Matthew 6:33** ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

___ **Matthew 10:7 -8** ⁷ As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

___ **Matthew 11:12** ¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

___ **Matthew 12:28** ²⁸ But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

___ **Luke 17:20-21** ²⁰ Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, ²¹ nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you."

___ **Acts 28:23** ²³ They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. From morning till evening he explained and declared to them the kingdom of God and tried to convince them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets.

___ **Acts 28:30-31** ³⁰ For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. ³¹ Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

___ **Ephesians 1:9-10** ⁹ And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

___ **Ephesians 2:19-20** ¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

___ **Colossians 1:13-14** ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

___ **1 Peter 2:9** ⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

15

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Genesis 15:6** ⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

___ **Proverbs 3:5-6** ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

___ **Mark 1:15** ¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

___ **Mark 9:24** ²⁴ Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

___ **Mark 16:16** ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

___ **Luke 17:6** ⁶ He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you."

___ **John 3:16** ¹⁶ "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."

___ **John 4:42** ⁴² They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

___ **John 6:29** ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

___ **John 11:25-26** ⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

___ **Acts 26:17-18** ¹⁷ I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them ¹⁸ to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."

___ **Romans 1:17** ¹⁷ For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

___ **Romans 3:23-25** ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—

___ **Romans 1:17** ¹⁷ For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

___ **Romans 5:2** ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

___ **Romans 14:1** ¹ Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.

16

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Romans 14:23** ²³ But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

___ **1 Corinthians 2:4-5** ⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

___ **1 Corinthians 13:13** ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

___ **2 Corinthians 5:7** ⁷ We live by faith, not by sight.

___ **Galatians 2:16** ¹⁶ know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.

___ **Galatians 3:11,26** ¹¹ Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith."... ⁶ You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,

___ **Galatians 5:6** ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

___ **Ephesians 2:8-9** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

___ **Ephesians 3:12,17** ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.... ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith....

___ **Philippians 3:9** ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

___ **Hebrews 10:22** ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

___ **Hebrews 11:1,6** ¹ Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.... ⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

___ **James 2:17,26** ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

___ **1 John 3:23** ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

___ **1 John 5:3-5** ³ This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

17

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Micah 6:8** ⁸ He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

___ **Matthew 5:16** ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

___ **Matthew 5:40-44** ⁴⁰ And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. ⁴¹ If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. ⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

___ **Matthew 7:12** ¹² So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

___ **Matthew 7:16-20** ¹⁶ By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

___ **Matthew 10:8** ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

___ **Matthew 20:25-28** ²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

___ **Matthew 22:37-40** ³⁷ Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

___ **Matthew 25:34-45** ³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' ³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' ⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' ⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' ⁴⁴ "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' ⁴⁵ "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

18

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **John 13:12-17** ¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

___ **John 13:34-35** ³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

___ **Romans 12:10-21** ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

___ **2 Corinthians 8:2-5** ² Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. ⁵ And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.

___ **Galatians 5:6** ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

___ **Galatians 6:1-2,9-10** ¹ Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.... ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

___ **Ephesians 2:8-10** ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

___ **Ephesians 4:28** ²⁸ He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

___ **Philippians 2:3-4** ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

19

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Colossians 3:12-14** ¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

___ **Colossians 4:5** ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

___ **1 Thessalonians 4:9-10** ⁹ Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. ¹⁰ And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more.

___ **2 Timothy 3:15-17** ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

___ **Titus 2:11-14** ¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

___ **Hebrews 13:3** ³ Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

___ **1 John 4:19-21** ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

___ **James 1:27** ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

___ **James 2:14-26** ¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

___ **James 4:17** ¹⁷ Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

___ **1 John 3:16-18** ¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

___ **1 John 4:19-21** ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

20

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **John 15:4-5** ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

___ **Romans 8:37-39** ³⁷ ...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

___ **1 Corinthians 3:5-11** ⁵ What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe--as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. ⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸ The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. ¹⁰ By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

___ **2 Corinthians 3:4-6** ⁴ Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. ⁵ Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. ⁶ He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant--not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

___ **2 Corinthians 12:8-10** ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

___ **Galatians 2:20** ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

___ **Galatians 5:22-23,25** ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control.... ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

___ **Ephesians 3:20** ²⁰ [He] able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

___ **Philippians 4:13** ¹³ I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

___ **Colossians 1:29** ²⁹ To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

___ **1 Peter 4:10-11** ¹⁰ Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

___ **2 Peter 1:3-4** ³ His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

21

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion (All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Matthew 4:19** ¹⁹ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

___ **Matthew 28:19-20** ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

___ **Mark 5:19** ¹⁹ Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."

___ **John 17:15-18** ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

___ **Acts 1:8** ⁸ 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."

___ **Romans 10:14-16.17** ¹⁴ 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? ¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"... ¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

___ **2 Corinthians 5:17-20** ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

___ **Colossians 1:24-29** ²⁴ Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church....²⁹ To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

___ **Colossians 4:5-6** ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

___ **2 Timothy 4:2,5** ² Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction....⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

___ **1 Peter 3:15** ¹⁵ But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

___ **1 John 1:1-4** ¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.

22

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **1 Samuel 3:10** ¹⁰ The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

___ **Proverbs 1:5** ⁵ let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance--

___ **Proverbs 10:19** ¹⁹ When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.

___ **Proverbs 12:18** ¹⁸ Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

___ **Proverbs 16:24** ²⁴ Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

___ **Proverbs 20:12** ¹² Ears that hear and eyes that see-- the LORD has made them both.

___ **Matthew 12:36-37** ³⁶ But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. ³⁷ For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

___ **Mark 4:9** ⁹ Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

___ **John 3:17** ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

___ **Romans 12:12,15** ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.... ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

___ **Ephesians 4:29** ²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

___ **Galatians 6:1-2** ¹ Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

___ **Colossians 4:6** ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

___ **2 Timothy 2:16,23-25** ¹⁶ Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.... ²³ Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. ²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. ²⁵ Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,

___ **2 Timothy 4:2** ² Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.

___ **James 1:19,26** ¹⁹ My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.... ²⁶ If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.

___ **1 Peter 3:15** ¹⁵ But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

23

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **John 3:16** ¹⁶ "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.

___ **John 3:36** ³⁶ "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

___ **John 5:24** ²⁴ "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

___ **John 6:40** ⁴⁰ "For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

___ **John 17:3** ³ "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

___ **Romans 6:23** ²³ "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

___ **1 Timothy 1:16** ¹⁶ "But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

___ **1 John 5:13** ¹³ "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

___ **Luke 1:76-78** ⁷⁶ "And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, ⁷⁷ to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God....

___ **Acts 4:12** ¹² "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

___ **Acts 13:47-48** ⁴⁷ "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.'" ⁴⁸ "When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord....

___ **Romans 1:16-17** ¹⁶ "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'"

___ **2 Corinthians 6:1-2** ¹ "As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ² For he says, 'In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.' I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

___ **Ephesians 1:13** ¹³ "And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

___ **Titus 2:11** ¹¹ "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

___ **Hebrews 9:28** ²⁸ "so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

24

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Mark 1:4** ⁴ John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

___ **Luke 5:20** ²⁰ When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

___ **Luke 17:3-4** ³ So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. ⁴ If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him."

___ **Acts 10:43** ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

___ **Acts 26:18** ¹⁸ to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

___ **Romans 3:25** ²⁵ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished--

___ **Ephesians 1:7-8** ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

___ **Colossians 3:13** ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

___ **1 Timothy 2:3-6** ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time.

___ **Titus 3:4-7** ⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

___ **Hebrews 2:17** ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

___ **Hebrews 9:22** ²² In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

___ **1 John 1:7-10** ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

___ **1 John 2:2** ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

25

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **John 14:27** ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

___ **John 15:18-19** ¹⁸ "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

___ **John 16:33** ³³ "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

___ **John 17:15-18** ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

___ **Romans 8:37-39** ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

___ **Romans 12:17-21** ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

___ **2 Corinthians 6:4-10** ⁴ Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶ in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; ⁸ through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; ⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

___ **Philippians 4:11-13** ¹¹ ... I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

___ **1 Peter 2:18-21** ¹⁸ Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹ For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

___ **1 Peter 4:12,15-16** ¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.... ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

26

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Matthew 7:1** ¹ "Do not judge, or you too will be judged.

___ **Matthew 9:10-13** ¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" ¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

___ **Matthew 18:15-17** ¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. ¹⁶ But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

___ **John 3:17** ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

___ **John 12:47** ⁴⁷ "As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it.

___ **Romans 15:1-2** ¹ We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ² Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

___ **Galatians 6:1-2** ¹ Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

___ **Ephesians 5:11** ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

___ **Colossians 3:12-16** ¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity....¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

___ **Colossians 4:5-6** ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

___ **2 Timothy 2:23-26** ²³ Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. ²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. ²⁵ Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

___ **2 Timothy 4:2** ² Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.

___ **1 Peter 3:15** ¹⁵ But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

27

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion (All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Isaiah 42:6** ⁶ I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles,

___ **Isaiah 49:6** ⁶ he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

___ **Matthew 5:13-16** ¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

___ **John 8:12** ¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

___ **1 John 1:1-4** ¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.

___ **1 John 1:7-10** ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

___ **1 John 2:1-2** ¹ My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

___ **1 John 3:16-18** ¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

___ **1 John 4:7-9** ⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ 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.

28

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **John 3:16-17** ¹⁶ “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. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

___ **John 6:35** ³⁵ Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

___ **John 8:12** ¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

___ **John 10:7** ⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep.

___ **John 10:11** ¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

___ **John 11:25** ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

___ **John 12:47** ⁴⁷ “As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it.

___ **John 13:34-35** “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

___ **John 14:6** ⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

___ **John 14:27** ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

___ **John 15:1-2** ¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

___ **John 15:4-5,8,12,16-17** ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.... ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.... ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.... ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

___ **John 16:33** ³³ “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

___ **John 17:15-18** ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

29

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Matthew 7:1-2** ¹“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ²For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

___ **Mark 2:27** ²⁷Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

___ **Mark 7:5-8** ⁵So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with ‘unclean’ hands?” ⁶He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “ ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁷They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.’ ⁸You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.”

___ **Romans 14:1** ¹Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.

___ **Romans 15:1-2** ¹We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ²Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

___ **Galatians 5:1,6** ¹It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.... ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

___ **Galatians 5:13-14** ¹³You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. ¹⁴The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

___ **Galatians 6:1-2** ¹Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. ²Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

___ **Colossians 2:16-23** ¹⁶Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. ¹⁷These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. ¹⁸Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. ¹⁹He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow. ²⁰Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: ²¹“Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? ²²These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. ²³Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

___ **Colossians 3:16** ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Romans 5:7-8** ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

___ **Romans 12:3** ³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

___ **Ephesians 2:13-22** ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. ¹⁹Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²²And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

___ **Ephesians 4:2-6** ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

___ **1 Timothy 2:3-6** ³This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time.

___ **Hebrews 9:12,24-28** ¹²He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.... For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. ²⁵Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. ²⁶Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, ²⁸so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

___ **Hebrews 10:9-10** ⁹Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

___ **1 John 2:2** ²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

31

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Luke 6:36-37** ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

___ **Luke 15:11-32** ¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. ²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' ³¹ " 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' "

___ **Romans 3:23-25** ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished.

___ **Ephesians 4:32** ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

___ **Colossians 3:12-14** ¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

___ **1 Thessalonians 4:9-10** ⁹ Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. ¹⁰ And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more.

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **2 Kings 6:8-23** ⁸ Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, "I will set up my camp in such and such a place." ⁹ The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there." ¹⁰ So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places. ¹¹ This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, "Will you not tell me which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?" ¹² "None of us, my lord the king," said one of his officers, "but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom." ¹³ "Go, find out where he is," the king ordered, "so I can send men and capture him." The report came back: "He is in Dothan." ¹⁴ Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city. ¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked. ¹⁶ "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." ¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. ¹⁸ As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, "Strike these people with blindness." So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked. ¹⁹ Elisha told them, "This is not the road and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are looking for." And he led them to Samaria. ²⁰ After they entered the city, Elisha said, "LORD, open the eyes of these men so they can see." Then the LORD opened their eyes and they looked, and there they were, inside Samaria. ²¹ When the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, "Shall I kill them, my father? Shall I kill them?" ²² "Do not kill them," he answered. "Would you kill men you have captured with your own sword or bow? Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink and then go back to their master." ²³ So he prepared a great feast for them, and after they had finished eating and drinking, he sent them away, and they returned to their master. So the bands from Aram stopped raiding Israel's territory.

___ **Matthew 10:18-20** ¹⁸ On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, ²⁰ for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

___ **John 16:33** ³³ "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

___ **Acts 12:1-2** ¹ It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. ² He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword.

___ **Philippians 2:21** ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

___ **1 Peter 4:12-16** ¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

33

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Mark 10:17-27** ¹⁷ As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸ "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰ "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." ²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²² At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. ²³ Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴ The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶ The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?" ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

___ **Luke 9:23** ²³ Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

___ **Luke 9:57-62** ⁵⁷ As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." ⁵⁹ He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹ Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family." ⁶² Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

___ **Luke 12:51-53** ⁵¹ Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. ⁵² From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. ⁵³ They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

___ **Luke 14:26-27** ²⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."

___ **John 10:10** ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

___ **Revelation 20:3-7** ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." ⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son."

34

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Deuteronomy 6:5-9** ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

___ **Joshua 1:9** ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

___ **Joshua 24:15** ¹⁵ Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

___ **Psalms 9:1-2** ¹ I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. ² I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High

___ **Isaiah 42:6** ⁶ "I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles,

___ **Isaiah 53:4-5** ⁴ Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

___ **Jeremiah 29:11-14** ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you.

___ **Jeremiah 31:3** ³ The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving kindness.

___ **Jeremiah 31:31-34** ³¹ This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴ No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

___ **Micah 6:8** ⁸ He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

___ **Joel 2:28-29** ²⁸ "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

35

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Matthew 6:19-21** ¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹ for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

___ **Matthew 6:22-23** ²² "The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

___ **Matthew 6:24** ²⁴ "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

___ **Matthew 14:25-31** ²⁵ During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." ²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

___ **Luke 12:48** ⁴⁸ From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

___ **Luke 18:10-14** ¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men -- robbers, evildoers, adulterers -- or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' ¹³ "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' ¹⁴ "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

___ **John 1:12-13** ¹² To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God -- ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

___ **John 4:39-42** ³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers. ⁴² They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

___ **2 Corinthians 5:7** ⁷ We live by faith, not by sight.

___ **Hebrews 12:1-2** ¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

36

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **John 4:46-53** ⁴⁶ Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. ⁴⁷ When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. ⁴⁸ "Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." ⁴⁹ The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies." ⁵⁰ Jesus replied, "You may go. Your son will live." The man took Jesus at his word and departed. ⁵¹ While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. ⁵² When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "The fever left him yesterday at the seventh hour." ⁵³ Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he and all his household believed.

___ **John 6:5-13** ⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" ⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹ "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. ¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

___ **John 14:12-14** "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. ¹³ "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

___ **Acts 2:42-46** ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.

___ **Romans 8:28** ²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

___ **Roman 12:1-2** ¹ I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

___ **Ephesians 3:20** ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

___ **1 John 5:14-15** ¹⁴ This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Acts 4:32-35** ³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

___ **Romans 6:3-4,6,10-11,13** ³ Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. . . . ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. . . . ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. . . . ¹³ Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

___ **Romans 12:9-13** ⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

___ **Romans 12:14-15** ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

___ **Romans 12:16** ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

___ **Romans 12:17-21** ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge. . . . ²⁰ If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. . . . ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

___ **Romans 14:1** ¹ Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.

___ **Romans 14:13** ¹³ Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.

___ **Romans 15:1-2** ¹ We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ² Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

___ **1 Corinthians 1:23-25** ²³ We preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

___ **1 Corinthians 2:2-5** ² I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. ⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **1 Corinthians 9:19-22** ¹⁹ Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹ To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.

___ **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** ²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. ²⁶ Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. ²⁷ No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

___ **2 Corinthians 1:20** ²⁰ For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

___ **2 Corinthians 3:4-5** ⁴ Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. ⁵ Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.

___ **2 Corinthians 3:18** ¹⁸ And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

___ **2 Corinthians 4:10-11** ¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹ For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body.

___ **2 Corinthians 5:17-21** ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

___ **2 Corinthians 8:3-5** ³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. ⁵ And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.

___ **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** ³ For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

___ **2 Corinthians 12:8-10** ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

39

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Galatians 2:20** ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

___ **Galatians 3:23-24** ²³ But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.

___ **Galatians 3:27** ²⁷ For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

___ **Galatians 3:28-29** ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

___ **Galatians 4:6** ⁶ Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

___ **Galatians 4:19** ¹⁹ My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you,

___ **Galatians 5:6** ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

___ **Galatians 5:13-14** ¹³ You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. ¹⁴ The entire law is summed up in a single command: Love your neighbor as yourself.

___ **Galatians 5:16,18** ¹⁶ So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. . . ¹⁸ If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

___ **Galatians 5:22-23** ²² The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

___ **Galatians 5:25** ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

___ **Galatians 6:1-2** ¹ If someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

___ **Galatians 6:9-10** ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good . . . ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people.

___ **Galatians 6:14-15** ¹⁴ May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation.

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Ephesians 2:8-10** ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith -- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

___ **Ephesians 2:15-19** ¹⁵ by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. ¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household.

___ **Ephesians 3:16-19** ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge -- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

___ **Ephesians 3:20** ²⁰ Now he is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

___ **Ephesians 4:1** ¹ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

___ **Ephesians 4:11-13** ¹¹ It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up, ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

___ **Ephesians 4:16** ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

___ **Ephesians 4:27** ²⁷ Do not give the devil a foothold.

___ **Ephesians 4:28** ²⁸ He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

___ **Ephesians 4:29,32** ²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.... ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

___ **Ephesians 5:3-4** ³ But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

___ **Ephesians 5:11** ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

___ **Ephesians 5:15-16** ¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live -- not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

___ **Ephesians 5:21** ²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

41

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Philippians 1:3-6** ³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being 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 1:9** ⁹And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight.

___ **Philippians 1:29** ²⁹For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him,

___ **Philippians 2:3-8** ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death -- even death on a cross!

___ **Philippians 2:12-13** ¹²Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed -- not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence -- continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

___ **Philippians 3:7-10** ⁷But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ -- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

___ **Philippians 3:12-16** ¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

___ **Philippians 3:18-19** ¹⁸For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.

___ **Philippians 4:6** ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

___ **Philippians 4:8** ⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable -- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy -- think about such things.

___ **Philippians 4:13** ¹³I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **Colossians 1:10** ¹⁰ And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

___ **Colossians 1:24** ²⁴ Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

___ **Colossians 1:27** ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

___ **Colossians 1:28-29** ²⁸ We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

___ **Colossians 2:6-7** ⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

___ **Colossians 2:8** ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

___ **Colossians 2:10-13** ¹⁰ You have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹ In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.

___ **Colossians 2:16-23** ¹⁶ Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. ¹⁹ He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow. ²⁰ Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: ²¹ "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? ²² These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. ²³ Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

___ **Colossians 3:1-2** ¹ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

___ **Colossians 3:12-14** ¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

___ **Colossians 3:16** ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

___ **Colossians 4:5-6** ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

43

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **1 Thessalonians 2:13** ¹³ And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

___ **1 Thessalonians 4:9-10** ⁹ Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. ¹⁰ And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more.

___ **1 Thessalonians 5:14-22** ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else. ¹⁶ Be joyful always; ¹⁷ pray continually; ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not put out the Spirit's fire; ²⁰ do not treat prophecies with contempt. ²¹ Test everything. Hold on to the good. ²² Avoid every kind of evil.

___ **2 Thessalonians 2:13** ¹³ But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

___ **2 Thessalonians 3:14-15** ¹⁴ If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of him. Do not associate with him, in order that he may feel ashamed. ¹⁵ Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

___ **1 Timothy 1:5** ⁵ The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

___ **1 Timothy 1:15** ¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners -- of whom I am the worst.

___ **1 Timothy 2:4-6** ⁴ God wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all men.

___ **1 Timothy 4:12-16** ¹² Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. ¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. ¹⁵ Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. ¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

___ **2 Timothy 1:6-7** ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

___ **2 Timothy 2:14-16** ¹⁴ Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. ¹⁶ Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **2 Timothy 2:23-26** ²³ Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. ²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. ²⁵ Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

___ **2 Timothy 3:15-17** ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

___ **2 Timothy 4:2** ² Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage -- with great patience and careful instruction.

___ **2 Timothy 4:3-5** ³ 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. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

___ **Titus 2:11-12** ¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.

___ **Titus 3:5-6** ⁵ He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior.

___ **Hebrews 6:1-2** ¹ Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, ² instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

___ **Hebrews 9:14** ¹⁴ How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

___ **Hebrews 10:10** ¹⁰ And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

___ **Hebrews 10:22-25** ²² Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another -- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

___ **Hebrews 12:1** ¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

___ **Hebrews 12:2** ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

45

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **James 1:5** ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

___ **James 1:13-15** ¹³ When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

___ **James 1:19** ¹⁹ My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

___ **James 1:22** ²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

___ **James 1:26** ²⁶ If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.

___ **James 1:27** ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

___ **James 2:8** ⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.

___ **James 2:26** ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

___ **James 4:17** ¹⁷ Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

___ **James 5:19-20** ¹⁹ My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, ²⁰ remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

___ **1 Peter 1:13** ¹³ Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

___ **1 Peter 1:18-19** ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

___ **1 Peter 1:22-23** ²² Love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

___ **1 Peter 2:9** ⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

___ **1 Peter 2:12** ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **1 Peter 2:18,20-24** ¹⁸ Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. . . . ²⁰ If you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. ²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

___ **1 Peter 3:15** ¹⁵ But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

___ **1 Peter 3:16-17** ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

___ **1 Peter 4:8** ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

___ **1 Peter 4:12-13** ¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ.

___ **1 Peter 4:19** ¹⁹ So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

___ **1 Peter 5:8** ⁸ Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

___ **2 Peter 1:3, 4, 8, 9** ³ His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. . . . ⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

___ **1 John 1:1-4** ¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.

___ **1 John 1:7-9** ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

___ **1 John 2:1-2** ¹ My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ **1 John 3:1-2** ¹ How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

___ **1 John 3:16-18** ¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

___ **1 John 3:23** ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

___ **1 John 4:7-12** ⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

___ **1 John 4:13-15** ¹³ We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.

___ **1 John 4:16-17** ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. ¹⁷ In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him.

___ **1 John 4:18** ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

___ **1 John 4:19-21** ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

___ **1 John 5:3-5** ³ This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

___ **Revelation 3:15-16** ¹⁵ I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm -- neither hot nor cold -- I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

___ **Revelation 3:19** ¹⁹ Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.

___ **Revelation 21:5** ⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

Passages for the Day's Reflection and Discussion

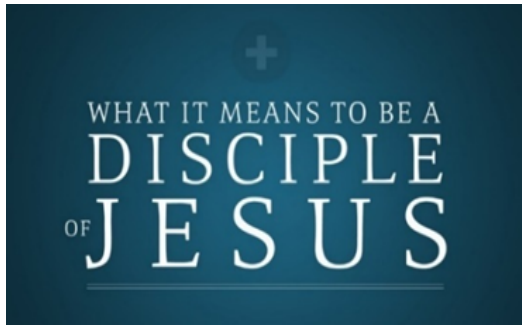
(All passages are taken from the NIV)

___ Psalm 51

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.
- ² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
- ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.
- ⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.
- ⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
- ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.
- ¹⁴ Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
- ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
- ¹⁶ You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
- ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

___ Psalm 103

- ¹ Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- ² Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—
- ³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,
- ⁴ who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- ⁶ The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.
- ⁷ He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:
- ⁸ The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.
- ⁹ He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;
- ¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.
- ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;
- ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
- ¹³ As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;
- ¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.
- ¹⁵ As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field;
- ¹⁶ the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.
- ¹⁷ But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children—
- ¹⁸ with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.
- ¹⁹ The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.
- ²⁰ Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.
- ²¹ Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.
- ²² Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the LORD, O my soul.



Disciple, Discipling, & Discipleship

Greek Word: μαθητής Transliteration: mathētēs

Learner – Follower
by Bill Cullen

At the time of the writing of the New Testament, Rabbis (teachers) had disciples (students/followers). A disciple would not simply learn cognitive information from a Rabbi. A true disciple would learn to do what his or her Rabbi did, sharing the same heart, mind, and attitude of the Rabbi.

Being a disciple of Jesus means more than cognitive agreement with or belief in Jesus. It is more than having affection for Jesus. It is more than being a spectator *watching* Jesus and others in His employ engage the world (all people for whom Jesus came and died – 1 Tim 2:4; 1 Jn 2:2). Being a disciple of Jesus is more than being an enthused fan or a cheerleader of Jesus. It involves more than piety, having a virtuously pure lifestyle. Being a disciple of Jesus implies activity on our part. It is more about what we DO than it is about what we DON'T DO (Jn 13:34-35; Gal 5:6; Jas 4:17).

To be a disciple of Jesus, a true follower, one must actually follow. To be a disciple of Christ one must be learning to do what Jesus does and to actively follow Him as He engages in mission, on the mission field, among the lost, the hurting, and even the rebellious. A true disciple doesn't merely learn "about" Jesus. A true disciple actually DOES mission and ministry WITH and THROUGH Jesus, with the heart, sensitivity, and demeanor of Jesus (Jn 13:34-35; Jn 15:8,12,16-17).

- † A disciple is one who is learning to do and who does what his/her teacher does with the same heart, mind, and skill as that of the teacher. (*Thankfully Jesus through His Spirit lives in us to live HIS love through us.* Jn 15:5; Eph 3:20; Col 1:29)
- † Jesus when He calls His disciples, He tells them that they will become "fishers of men [women & children]" (Mt 4:19).
- † To be Jesus' disciples is to be *people of mission*: following Jesus onto the mission field and ministering to those He came to seek and to save (Mt 9:10-13; Lk 19:10). We are not truly "followers" following Jesus if we are not with *Jesus on the mission field [be it locally or abroad] doing missional work*, be it as an invalid prayer laborer or by rolling up our sleeves for labor.

Jesus tells His disciples that the way people will know that they/we are His disciples is by their/our loving as He loves (Jn 13:34-35; Jn 15:8,12,16-17). Actively loving people is the defining characteristic of a disciple of Jesus (1 Cor 13:13; Gal 5:6).

HOW DOES JESUS LOVE ?

He loved by dying for sinners.



(Ro 3:23-25; Ro 5:6-8; 1 Jn 3:16;
1 Jn 4:9-10)

He loves by coming for and helping/serving the poor, the sick, the hurting, the disenfranchised, the enslaved.



(Mt 9:11-13; Mt 11:19; Mt 25:35-40;
Lk 4:18)
58

He loves by actively seeking out the lost.



(Lk 15:1-7; Lk 19:10)

HOW DOES JESUS LOVE THROUGH US?

- ◆ Jesus sends His disciples – you and me – to our families and neighbors (*Mk 5:19*).
- ◆ Jesus sends His disciples – you and me – on mission adventures (*Mt 10:1-8; Lk 9:1-2; Lk 10:1-3*).
- ◆ Jesus sends His disciples – you and me – into the world to be among and with hurting, needy, sin-filled people even as He was sent (*Jn 1:14; Mt 9:9-13; Mt 11:19; Lk 15:1-7; Jn 17:15-18; Acts 1:8*).
- ◆ Jesus sends His disciples – you and me – to bear much fruit (*Jn 15:8*).
- ◆ Jesus sends His disciples – you and me – to be ministers of reconciliation and His ambassadors of love in the world (2 *Cor 5:17-20*).
- ◆ Jesus sends His disciples – you and me – to complete what was lacking in His affliction (*Col 1:24-29*).
- ◆ Jesus sends His disciples – you and me – to make disciples – people who will obey Him in everything and who do what He did and now seeks to do through us (*Mt 28:19-20; Jn 17:15-18; Acts 1:8*).
- ◆ As His disciples we are to live lives “worthy of our calling” (*Eph 4:1,16; Col 1:10*).
- ◆ Washing feet (*Jn 13:12-17*).
- ◆ loving others as He has loved us [sacrificially, unconditionally without limits] (*Jn 13:34-35; Mk 10:42-45; Phil 2:3-8; 1 Jn 3:16; 1 Jn 4:11-12*).
- ◆ Filled with good works (*Mt 5:16; Mt 25:35-40; Eph 2:8-10; 2 Tim 3:15-17; Heb 10:24; 1 Jn 3:17-18*).
- ◆ Being kind, tenderhearted and forgiving of all just as He is with us (*Eph 4:32*).
- ◆ Making the most of every opportunity (*Eph 5:15-16; Gal 6:2,9-10; Col 4:5; Jas 4:17*).
- ◆ Being His witness and giving witness, being ministers of reconciliation (*Acts 1:8; Ro 10:14-15,17; 2 Cor 5:18-20; 1 Jn 1:1-4*).
- ◆ Loving more and more and more (*1 Th 4:9-10; 1 Cor 13:4-8; 1 Cor 16:14*).
- ◆ Having as a special concern: our language (*Mt 12:36-37; Eph 4:29; Col 4:6; Jas 1:19,22,26*)

Verses from “Disciples, Discipling, & Discipleship”

(Check, share, & discuss the passage(s) most meaningful or insightful for you as you think about discipling and being a disciple.

All Scripture passages are taken from the NIV. – from pp. 104-106 in Discipling Handbook)

___ **Matthew 4:19** ¹⁹ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

___ **Matthew 9:11-13** ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" ¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

___ **Matthew 10:1-8** ¹ He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. ⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶ Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷ As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."

___ **Matthew 11:19** ¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and "sinners."'" But wisdom is proved right by her actions."

___ **Matthew 12:36-37** ³⁶ But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. ³⁷ For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

___ **Matthew 25:35-40** ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' ³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' ⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

___ **Matthew 28:19-20** ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

___ **Mark 3:14-15** ¹⁴ He appointed twelve--designating them apostles--that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and to have authority to drive out demons.

___ **Mark 5:19** ¹⁹ Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."

___ **Mark 10:42-45** ⁴² Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." freely give.

___ **Luke 4:18** ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,

___ **Luke 9:1-2** ¹ When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, ² and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

___ **Luke 10:1-3** ¹ After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ² He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. ³ Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.

___ **Luke 15:1-7** ¹ Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

___ **Luke 19:10** ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

___ **John 1:14** ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

___ **John 13:12-17** ¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

___ **John 13:34-35** ³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

___ **John 15:5,8,16-17** ⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.... ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.... ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

___ **John 17:15-18** ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

___ **Acts 1:8** ⁸ 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."

___ **Romans 3:23-25** ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—

___ **Romans 5:6-8** ⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

___ **Romans 10:14-15,17** ¹⁴ 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? ¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" ...¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

___ **1 Corinthians 13:4-8** ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

___ **1 Corinthians 13:13** ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

___ **1 Corinthians 16:14** ¹⁴ Do everything in love.

___ **2 Corinthians 5:17-20** ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

___ **Galatians 5:6** ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

___ **Galatians 6:2,9-10** ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.... ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

___ **Ephesians 2:8-10** ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

___ **Ephesians 4:1,16** ¹ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received....
¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

___ **Ephesians 4:29** ²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

___ **Ephesians 4:32** ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

___ **Ephesians 5:15-16 (NIV)** ¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

___ **Philippians 2:3-8** ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

___ **Colossians 1:24-29** ²⁴ Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness-- ²⁶ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

___ **Colossians 4:5** ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

___ **Colossians 4:6** ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

___ **1 Thessalonians 4:9-10** ⁹ Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. ¹⁰ And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more.

___ **1 Timothy 2:3-4** ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

___ **2 Timothy 3:15-17** ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

___ **Hebrews 10:24** ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

___ **James 1:19,22,26** ¹⁹ My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,...²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.... ²⁶ If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is... worthless.

___ **James 4:17** ¹⁷ Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

___ **1 John 1:1-4** ¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.

___ **1 John 2:2** ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

___ **1 John 3:16** ¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

___ **1 John 4:9-10** ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

___ **1 John 4:9-12** ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.



God's Mission & A Christian's Calling

(All Scripture Passages Have Been Taken From the NIV)

Passages that talk about: (passages may get more than one mark)

- God's Mission mark "M."
- a Christian's Calling mark "C."
- the Demeanor a Christian is to exhibit mark "D."
- a Christian's source of Empowerment mark "E."
- Underline words/phrases you find significant.

___ **Genesis 12:2-3** ² "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

___ **Exodus 19:6** ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

___ **Matthew 9:10-13** ¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" ¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

___ **Matthew 20:25-28** ²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

___ **Matthew 22:37-40** ³⁷ Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

___ **Matthew 28:19-20** ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

___ **Luke 19:10** ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

___ **John 3:16-17** ¹⁶ "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. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

___ **John 12:47** ⁴⁷ "As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it."

___ **John 13:12-17,34-35** ¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.... ³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

___ **John 15:4-5,8,12,16-17** ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.... ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.... ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.... ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other."

___ **John 17:15-18** ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

___ **Acts 1:8** ⁸ 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."

___ **Romans 5:7-8** ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

___ **Romans 10:14-15,17** ¹⁴ 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? ¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"... ¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

___ **Romans 13:8-10** ⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

___ **1 Corinthians 13:1-8,13** ¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² 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 have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails.... ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

___ **1 Corinthians 16:14** ¹⁴ Do everything in love.

___ **2 Corinthians 5:17-20** ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

___ **Galatians 5:6,13-14,22-23** ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.... ¹³ You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. ¹⁴ The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."... ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

___ **Galatians 6:1-2,9-10** ¹ Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.... ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

___ **Ephesians 1:9-10** ⁹ And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

___ **Ephesians 2:8-10** ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

___ **Ephesians 4:1-2,16,32** ¹ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.... ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.... ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

___ **Ephesians 5:1-2** ¹ Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

___ **Philippians 2:3-8** ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

___ **Colossians 1:24,28-29** ²⁴ Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.... ²⁸ We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

___ **Colossians 3:12-14,16** ¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.... ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

___ **Colossians 4:5-6** ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

___ **1 Thessalonians 4:9-10** ⁹ Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. ¹⁰ And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more.

___ **1 Timothy 2:3-7** ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time. ⁷ And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle--I am telling the truth, I am not lying--and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles.

___ **2 Timothy 1:6-7** ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

___ **2 Timothy 3:15-17** ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

___ **2 Timothy 4:2** ² Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.

___ **James 1:19,22,26-27** ¹⁹ My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,... ²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.... ²⁶ If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

___ **James 2:8,17,26** ⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.... ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.... ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

___ **James 4:17** ¹⁷ Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

___ **1 Peter 2:9** ⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

___ **1 Peter 3:15** ¹⁵ But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

___ **1 Peter 4:8** ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

___ **1 John 1:1-3** ¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

___ **1 John 2:1-2** ¹ My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

___ **1 John 3:16-18,23** ¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.... ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

___ **1 John 4:7-12,16,19-21** ⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.... ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.... ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

* The passage that is most Meaningful to/for you at this time.
Today, what is your greatest Takeaway from these passage?



God's Mission:

Loving, Redeeming, & Restoring the Undeserving that we might live

- ***joyous, fruitful lives as His sons and daughters and as citizens of His Kingdom***
- ***in love/trust (agape) relationship with our Triune God (Father, Son & Holy Spirit), with all people, and with all that He has created (Ephesians 1:9-10).***

There are those in the church (at times perhaps most, if not all, of us), while being well-intended, have misunderstood and misrepresented God's primary mission. There are those in the church that have made God's primary mission to be a mission of morality and moral behavior (gender issues, abortion, hedonism, etc.). – *Forgive us, forgive me, Lord!*

While it is true God seeks morality and moral behavior in, for, and from His followers, His children, what God seeks most in, for, and from His followers, His children is a healthy, love/trust relationship out which naturally flows Christian (Christlike) morality and moral behavior. When morality and moral behavior become the primary focus, Christianity becomes a religion of law, not a religion of love and healthy relationship.

Our relationship with God does not begin with our morality and moral behavior (by nature [our old Adam] we are immoral sinners – Romans 3:23). However, our relationship with God does result in morality and moral behavior (2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 John 3:1-2). Our relationship with God begins not with us, but with God. It begins with God loving us (the undeserving – Romans 5:7-8; 1 John 4:19). It begins by God making us new creations (Romans 6:3-4,6,11,13; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

God through His Spirit births in us faith in His essence, in His love. He births faith in His love as He extends to us His forgiveness and acceptance made real and tangible in and through Jesus' atoning sacrifice and through His on-going presence with us through His Spirit (1 John 4:7-10).

Experiencing, knowing, and being convinced of His demonstrated love, faith is birthed (Romans 10:17). Knowing God (experiencing His love), we grow to trust in His love, His wisdom, and His power. Trusting in His love, wisdom, and power we seek to live life as He intends, lovingly and morally (1 John 5:3-5). After all, "*Father Knows Best!*"

___ **John 3:16-17 (NIV)** ¹⁶ "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. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

___ **John 12:47 (NIV)** ⁴⁷ "As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it.

___ **Romans 3:23 (NIV)** ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

___ **Romans 5:7-8 (NIV)** ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

___ **Romans 10:17 (NIV)** ¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

___ **2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)** ¹⁸ And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

___ **Galatians 2:21 (NIV)** ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

___ **Ephesians 1:9-10 (NIV)** ⁹ And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

___ **1 John 1:1-3,7-10 & 2:1-2 (NIV)** ¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.... ⁷ If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. **2:1-2** ¹ My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

___ **1 John 3:1-2 (NIV)** ¹ How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!... ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

___ **1 John 4:7-16,19 (NIV)** ⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. ¹³ We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.... ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

___ **1 John 5:3-5 (NIV)** ³ This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

As sons and daughters and as citizens of the Kingdom, our role (response-ability) in God's Mission is to be ambassadors of God's love, making it real and tangible for people by loving them as Jesus loves us.

Our role in God's mission is to "complete what is lacking in Jesus' affliction" (Colossians 1:24). There was nothing lacking in Jesus affliction in regard to the work of justification (Romans 3:24-25; 1 Timothy 2:3-6; Hebrews 10:10; 1 John 2:2). The work of atonement and justification is complete. What is lacking is in the work of proclamation. That is where we come in (Matthew 10:7-8; Mark 5:19; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:14-17; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; 1 Peter 3:15; 1 John 1:1-4).

We are to proclaim God's love through our words and through our deeds, loving others as Jesus loved and loves us (Matthew 5:16; Luke 9:23; John 13:34-35; John 15:8,12,16-17; 1 Corinthians 13:13; 1 Corinthians 16:14; Galatians 6:2,9-10; Ephesians 2:8-10; Ephesians 5:1-2; Colossians 4:5-6; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; James 4:17; 1 John 3:16-18; 1 John 4:11-12).

___ **Matthew 5:16 (NIV)** ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

___ **Matthew 10:7-8 (NIV)** ⁷ As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

___ **Mark 5:19 (NIV)** ¹⁹ Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."

___ **Luke 9:23 (NIV)** ²³ Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

___ **John 13:34-35 (NIV)** ³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

___ **John 15:8,12.16-17 (NIV)** ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.... ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.... ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

___ **Acts 1:8 (NIV)** ⁸ 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."

___ **Romans 10:14-17 (NIV)** ¹⁴ 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? ¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" ¹⁶ But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" ¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

___ **1 Corinthians 13:13 (NIV)** ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

___ **1 Corinthians 16:14 (NIV)** ¹⁴ Do everything in love.

___ **2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (NIV)** ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

___ **Galatians 6:2,9-10 (NIV)** ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.... ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people....

___ **Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)** ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

___ **Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)** ¹ Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

___ **Colossians 1:24 (NIV)** ²⁴ Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

___ **Colossians 4:5-6 (NIV)** ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

___ **1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 (NIV)** ⁹ Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. ¹⁰ And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more.

___ **1 Timothy 2:3-6 (NIV)** ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time.

___ **2 Timothy 3:15-17 (NIV)** ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

___ **Hebrews 10:10 (NIV)** ¹⁰ And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

___ **James 4:17 (NIV)** ¹⁷ Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

___ **1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)** ¹⁵ But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

___ **1 John 1:1-4 (NIV)** ¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.

___ **1 John 3:16-18 (NIV)** ¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

___ **1 John 4:11-12 (NIV)** ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Our Empowerment

We can because Jesus can and Jesus lives in us to do through us.

Jesus does not ask us to live our lives *for* Him, rather He seeks to live His life *through* us. When the Holy Spirit births faith in us the Spirit is in fact birthing Jesus in us (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20; Galatians 3:27) with all the power of His divine nature (Ephesians 3:20; 2 Peter 1:3-4). But just as a human baby is not developed and its muscle and mental faculties are undeveloped so is the Christ in us undeveloped in us. As the Spirit works in us to bring us to greater maturity, the Jesus in us becomes more fully formed (Galatians 4:19). As Jesus increasingly is formed in we are increasingly transformed in His image (2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 John 3:1-2) bearing the fruit of His indwelling presence and character (John 15:4-5; Galatians 5:22-23). We do not *work for* our salvation. It is a gift we already have (Ephesians 2:8-9), but we do or ought to *work out*/live out the salvation we have as Jesus work in and through us to accomplish His good and loving purposes (Philippians 2:12-13), bearing the fruit of His presence and character (Colossians 1:28-29).

___ **John 15:4-5 (NIV)** ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

___ **Acts 1:8 (NIV)** ⁸ 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."

___ **2 Corinthians 3:4-6 (NIV)** ⁴ Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. ⁵ Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. ⁶ He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant--not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

___ **2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)** ¹⁸ And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

___ **2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)** ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

___ **Galatians 2:20 (NIV)** ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

___ **Galatians 3:27 (NIV)** ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

___ **Galatians 4:19 (NIV)** ¹⁹ My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you,

___ **Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)** ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control....

___ **Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)** ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

___ **Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)** ²⁰ 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,

___ **Philippians 2:12-13 (NIV)** ¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

___ **Colossians 1:28-29 (NIV)** ²⁸ We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

___ **2 Timothy 1:6-7 (NIV)** ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

___ **2 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV)** ³ His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

___ **1 John 3:1-2 (NIV)** ¹ How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!... ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.