



**GOBIN CHURCH**  
A United Methodist Community for All

The advertisers use the tactic that saying the same things over and over, whether true or not, will make those things true in our minds. To some extent, that can work. But as followers of Christ, our default mode should not be spiteful, slanderous or repeating false promises. Scripture tells us that loving our neighbors – even our enemies – is the default mode commanded by Jesus.

**PRAYER:** Lord, Instill in me the ability to see past false teachings, lies, rhetoric and slanderous statements. No one is perfect, and highlighting someone's faults often makes us cling to our own false realities. Please continue to shine your light of truth and honor and dignity into this world, and may we follow your light out of darkness into a bright future shaped for everyone. Amen.

**PURPOSE:** Challenge verbal falsehoods you encounter today with simple words of truth. “God is Love. We are all loved by God. Love Your neighbor.” Start with saying those things to yourself in the mirror.

### **Saturday, October 31, 2020**

Joshua 2:15-24 <https://tinyurl.com/yyp7ynhu>

**PONDER:** All of us experience battles and trials, and we all value the smallest of signs that God is with us. We may find it hard to explain to others, and the moral basis of either our actions or what happens to us might be disputable by others, but such signs are invaluable. Sometimes the people we least expect to be used by God are used for great things. Keep your eyes open and see if you can spot God using people unexpectedly in the things you see happening around you today.

**PRAYER:** Lord, Let me be open to new possibilities for myself and for other people. Help me to help others see their own potential by listening to them and dreaming with them. Amen.

**PURPOSE:** What signs has God given you to confirm His faithfulness and His favour, and what part has this played in your life? Journal about this.

## **DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS**

### **Monday, October 26, 2020**

James 2:8-13 <https://tinyurl.com/yy9v6nzg>

**PONDER:** James knows that he's writing to people who care about their relationship with God, and they do care about following the commands of God. But they've got blind spots, and they spend a lot of time working on holiness in area “A” and they've left this big gap in area “B”. James warns we can spend all our time being holy over here and ignore God's law over there, and we're still breaking the whole law. Today's scripture challenges us to consider all of our actions, and faults, not just some of them. So James raises a challenge in this area of favoritism as an example. James anticipated that some of his readers might defend their partiality to the rich as simply loving the rich man as their neighbor in obedience to the law. The problem isn't that one is nice to the rich. The problem is that one does show partiality to the rich, and is not nice to those who live in poverty. Think about the families who have two adults working jobs that pay \$10 an hour. That's above the minimum wage, but it's still poverty level if the family has children. Doesn't everyone deserve safe housing and affordable healthcare, even those working low wage jobs? What are barriers that can be addressed? Can you help people be more financially smart with the resources they have?

**PRAY:** Lord, You have blessed me with many things, and I thank you. May I see all people as worthy of your care, and my care, your concern, and my concern, your mercy, and my mercy. Help me to share my blessings with others, and to treat all people as equals. Amen.

**PURPOSE:** Read about the situations and challenges faced by low-income and medium-income families in America. One organization to check out is Justice With Jobs online at [www.jwj.org](http://www.jwj.org). Another is the Coalition on Human Needs at [www.chn.org](http://www.chn.org).

## **Tuesday, October 27, 2020**

James 2:14-26 <https://tinyurl.com/y4g78g6f>

**PONDER:** James is describing any kind of work, from works of kindness, such as giving food to someone who is hungry, to on-the-job work, such as increasing the sustainable yield of farmland. His use of the plural shows that he expects Christians' work to be continual.

We have opportunities every day to meet the needs of people we work for and among. It can be as simple as making sure a confused customer finds the right item for their need or noticing that a new co-worker needs help but is afraid to ask. James urges us to take special concern for those who are vulnerable or marginalized, and we may need to practice noticing who these people are at our places of work. James doesn't command Christians to work for the benefit of others in need instead of placing faith in Christ, or even in addition to placing faith in Christ. He expects that Christians will work for the benefit of others in need as a *result* of placing faith in Christ.

**PRAYER:** Lord, Put me to doing for others. I gain so much when I help others. I can feel my heart grow, and my spirits rise, and the best part is when others experience relief at receiving the care and comfort they need. Point out ways I can serve others, Lord, for I am too often blind to the needs of my neighbors. Amen.

**PURPOSE:** Fall leaves are beautiful, on the trees. On the ground, however, they can become a slippery trip and fall hazard. Get a rake, and clear someone's yard, driveway and sidewalks. Or, if someone is raking for you, express your gratitude with words, maybe offering a warm beverage, and ask "How is it with your soul, today?"

## **Wednesday, October 28, 2020**

Matthew 19:16-22 <https://tinyurl.com/y55t97e3>

**PONDER:** Today's scripture is a frequently discussed gospel story and it is found in slightly different forms in the three synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. One could interpret the reaction of the young man as raising the bar higher for himself until he was unable to respond to the invitation of Christ and had to go away sad. Instead, the parable invites us to ask ourselves what possessions might be holding us back from following Christ in some ways? Jesus touched on the one thing that the man was not ready to give up – his money and all that it brought. But, if we are honest, we all have some things we would be very slow to let go of. Ask yourself what would be the most difficult thing to give up if Jesus asked you to do so. Do the things we own really own us? Bring these things to Jesus now in this time of prayer.

**PRAYER:** Lord, Work on me so that I do not wander aimlessly along the path of discipleship, feeling hollow and sad. Amen.

**PURPOSE:** Are there attitudes on which I am non-negotiable – grudges, resentments, self-pity, bitterness, despising others for their flaws, being too lazy to pray, addiction to trivialities, insensitivity to others' needs? Call or visit someone to make amends. Learn to negotiate with yourself to let such things go.

## **Thursday, October 29, 2020**

Psalm 43 <https://tinyurl.com/y3b2kbur>

**PONDER:** Today's scripture reminds me of this story by an unknown author. A young Christian packed his bag for a journey and said to a friend, "I have nearly finished packing. I have in my suitcase a guidebook, a lamp, a mirror, a microscope, a telescope, a volume of fine poetry, a few biographies, a package of old letters, a book of songs, a sword, a hammer, and a set of tools."

"But you cannot put all that into your bag," objected the friend. "Oh, yes," said the Christian. "Here it is," and he placed his Bible in the corner of the suitcase and closed the lid.

How often I forget that the Psalms, Proverbs and other writings can be the best reading material I have, and the Bible is a great companion for any journey. In fact, many popular movies are modern twists on biblical stories. My favorite is "Cool Hand Luke" starring Paul Newman. It's a little gritty, but so was life in Jesus' time.

**PRAY:** Lord, Thank you for the melody of life written into the Psalms, and for the stories of truth and bravery and challenge that draw us closer to you. Amen.

**PRACTICE:** Copy a Psalm or a Parable of Jesus by hand. Think about the words and sentences as you write. How can you connect your life with the words or story? Show your writing to someone and ask them to reflect on their own journey in the same way.

## **Friday, October 30, 2020**

2 Peter 2:1-3 <https://tinyurl.com/yxu75oar>

**PONDER:** A German proverb says, "An old error is always more popular than a new truth." It is difficult to adapt our practices to new realities. Our default mode is what we learned through experience and practice. The same goes for our spiritual life. These days we are faced with many challenges to truth – such as political rhetoric and biased campaign advertising on all sides of the political arena.