

It has to be mediated by Philip who “found” Nathaniel (notice the use of the same word as when Jesus “found” Philip). Nathaniel is skeptical at first but allows himself to be brought to Jesus. The Lord communicates with us in many ways. Sometimes it may seem direct and unambiguous, at other times more indirect, as when the call is mediated by other people. Can you name men and women in your life who brought you to Jesus (as Philip brought Nathaniel), or who made you aware of what Jesus was asking of you? Have you been grateful for these mediators?

PRAYER: Dear God, thank you for the mediators you have sent into my life to bring me to Jesus. May I also be a mediator for others, so they will know your love and abundance through relationship with Jesus. Amen.

ACTION: Be with Jesus in a quiet place and ask him about the dream he has for you as his friend.



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS
January 24-29, 2022

Monday, January 24, 2022 (by Marilyn Culler)
Psalm 119: 89-96 <https://tinyurl.com/353vw5sz>

PONDER: Nothing is perfect in this world. God’s perfection is limitless. Perhaps a friendship or a job or a car or a meal sound perfect, until we spend a little time with that person or experience or thing. God’s precepts are the perfection, the unlimited and never-changing joy we find in God’s Presence with us. When we serve the Lord with all our being, the boundless glory of God accompanies us. May we stand firm forever in the uncompromising love of God.

PRAYER: God, I know I am not perfect, but you are. Shelter me in your love so that I can accomplish more of you and less of me. Amen.

ACTION: Consider a time in your life when God gave you the grace to start over. How did that work out for you? Extend grace today to someone in your life.

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 (by Jamie Douglas)
2 Corinthians 7:2-12 <https://tinyurl.com/2p8cf2fj>

PONDER: I admit that I struggled with this scripture. I just could not wrap my head around Godly sorrow versus worldly sorrow. The Message translation helped me. Verse 10 says that Godly sorrow is “distress that drives us to God.... It turns us around. It gets us back in the way of salvation.” I think Paul is talking about true repentance where we completely own and take responsibility for our actions and any words that have caused pain. We seek forgiveness and are changed as we turn toward the Holy One. Verses 11 and 12 go on to remind us that when we are drawn to God we are “...more alive, more concerned, more sensitive, more reverent, more human, more passionate, more responsible.” That sounds lovely to me!

PRAYER: Lord, give me the courage to allow you to search my heart and reveal to me the ways I have been clinging to worldly sorrows and have not fully repented and turned toward you for healing. I long to be set free from the weights of bitterness and resentment that keep me separated from you and keep me from being the Light that you intended. In the Name of the One who is the Light. Amen

ACTION: Repent. Seek forgiveness. Be Light and Love.

Wednesday, January 26, 2022 (by Anita Edenfield)

Psalm 119:89-96

<https://tinyurl.com/353vw5sz>

PONDER: The psalmist has found salvation through God's laws and wishes to learn about everything he could do that would please and honor God. We do much the same thing in our lives today. When we find a connection with someone, we want to learn everything we can about that person - their likes and dislikes, as well as whatever we can do that would please them and honor them. Imagine if we used our daily meditation time to pray about what we can do to please and honor God. It might just be life- changing!

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, you are the guiding light in my life and I pray that my actions bring honor to you. I ask for better understanding of your ways so that I may please you in all ways every day. Amen.

ACTION: God's law to love your neighbor as yourself is easy to say, but harder to put into true action. Look for one thing each day you can do that will show selfless love, the love shown by God, to someone with whom you cross paths.

Thursday, January 27, 2022 (by Teddy Shuck)

Acts 10:44-48

<https://tinyurl.com/2esfwnj4>

PONDER: Recently, I have come across several readings about Gentiles becoming part of the community of believers. The scripture verifies that Peter and others were learning that "God doesn't show partiality to one group of people or another." Peter and the others spend time with people who are blessed by the Holy Spirit as they were blessed at Pentecost. God sent Jesus to bring the message of peace. Peter extends that message to the group he is addressing and wants them to be baptized with water. He stays and eats and shares with them. Quite a courageous thing to do.

PRAYER: Help me continue to hear the message that we are all accepted by Jesus, Jews and Gentiles alike. Amen.

ACTION: Help me to treat everyone with respect.

Friday, January 28, 2022 (by Terry Noble)

Acts 19:1-10

<https://tinyurl.com/2p9e2rmy>

PONDER: In this passage we can see that the preaching of John the Baptist has spread far. When Paul comes to Ephesus there are already disciples there. However, it turns out that they were disciples of John the Baptist not Jesus. Clearly, they are moved when Paul explains that John's baptism is one of repentance, however, being baptized in Jesus Christ will fill them with the Holy Spirit of Jesus. Try to imagine their joy when they hear the news of the Resurrection and salvation. As believers in John's message, they understood the need to repent, now they are Easter people equipped for ministry with the power of the Holy Spirit. Hallelujah!

PRAYER: God of Resurrection joy, thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to equip me for ministry. May I always be faithful in word and action. Amen.

ACTION: As you go about your day, be aware of the Holy Spirit's power moving in and through you.

Saturday, January 29, 2022 (by Lisa Trigg)

John 1:43-51

<https://tinyurl.com/2p9hx6rr>

PONDER: Today's reading is all about the call of the Christian, about your call to be with Jesus as your friend. Reflect on what it means to be a Christian today by pondering how the Gospels are all about Jesus as he went about making friends in order to lead us into his own relationship with his Father. Jesus calls two new disciples in this reading. The first call is simplicity itself: "He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.'" The second is more complicated.