

PRAYER: Creator God, help me be the genuine self you made me to be. Thank you for this life and all that I am. Amen.

ACTION: Is there any area of your life where you are vulnerable? Ask God to give you strength to be your genuine, honest self. God's Light of Love shines through YOU!

Saturday, February 12, 2022 (by Lisa Trigg)

Luke 11:24-28

<https://tinyurl.com/bdcra6f7>

PONDER: A woman in a crowd around Jesus appreciates what he has said. She praises and blesses his mother. Jesus in reply, asks her to imagine instead those who listen and are obedient to the word of God. Do what they do, rather than applaud what they say. In today's culture, we often hear the terms "Follow" and "Like" and "Share" on social media, and maybe we hit those buttons when we read an idea with which we can agree. But are we missing the point? Can we be caught in positive adulation rather than positive action? Perhaps the flood of popular personalities promoting social media events excites us so much that it blunts our perception of what is important, meaningful action. Jesus calls us to the important action of sharing God's Love with others. Meditate on how you can do that today.

PRAYER: Dear God, reveal to me how I may show my appreciation of your son Jesus and his message of Love to everyone.

ACTION: Post a message of Love, perhaps Scripture, on social media and invite people to Follow Jesus.



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS
February 7-12, 2022

Monday, February 7, 2022 (by Marilyn Culler)

1 Corinthians 14:26-40

<https://tinyurl.com/2p93san3>

PONDER: Paul seems to be calling for dignity and order in the Corinthian church. And yet, Paul said women were not to talk in meetings. I wonder what was going on among believers when Paul wrote this. Women are given enough honor to be mentioned in the stories of Jesus. Elders in the new church, all men, would have been the ones to evaluate prophecies, and time was needed for quiet reflection. Maybe the men or Corinth had been complaining about women being too vocal in meetings. Maybe Paul felt women needed an extra reminder to be quiet during times when people were receiving messages from God. It's no secret that the new church in Corinth was a hot mess. Women were there. Women were faithful believers. Women may have been challenging the men a little too much! The good news is that God welcomes all believers!

PRAY: God, speak to me in the silence and help me be discerning in my speaking. Amen.

ACTION: Practice intentional silence today. In the quiet, can you hear God speaking to you?

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 (by Jamie Douglas)

Psalms 115

<https://tinyurl.com/3mhu9unu>

PONDER: What comes to mind when you hear the phrase, "worshipping idols"? I tend to think of an idol as described in this psalm...a statue representing a "god" and made by human hands. I realize, however, that an idol is anything that we allow to consume us and turn us away from worshipping the God of all Creation. I found verse 8 powerful. "Those who make them [the idols] will be like them and so will all who trust in them." While I don't have an image or object that is a representation of a god that I worship, I certainly have many objects or activities that I spend much time with at the expense of spending time with God.

PRAY: Heavenly Creator, thank you that we have a God worth of praise and worship. You are so much higher and more majestic than we can ever conceive. Draw us to you. Help us to choose to spend time with you and to turn away from what keeps us from you. Amen

ACT: What takes you away from God? Are there people, places, things that consume you in a way that could be considered idol worship? How does our society encourage us toward worshipping things that are beneath us instead of worshipping the One who set this universe and all it contains into motion?

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 (by Anita Edenfield)
Luke 5:27-32 <https://tinyurl.com/yuh9ys7a>

PONDER: After Jesus called Levi, the tax collector, to come follow him, Levi threw a big banquet for Jesus. It was attended by many tax collectors which gave the Pharisees an opportunity to question the disciples about their associating with sinners. Jesus' response that he'd come not for the righteous, but rather to call sinners to repentance angered the Pharisees and set them on their course to destroy him. If you think about it, when you are in the right, as Jesus was, creating the potential for toppling powerful people from their positions of power may not go well unless, of course, you have God on your side!

PRAYER: Father, we pray that we are able see injustices around us and carry your power with us as we strive to make the wrongs become right. Walk beside us, Lord, and keep us strong when others would seek to hold us back with self-doubt. Help us always remember that when You are with us no one can be against us. Amen

ACTION: God gave us one purpose. One commandment larger and louder than all the others. He never said we wouldn't have to put in some work in the process! Simply do what it takes to ... "Love one another."

Thursday, February 10, 2022 (by Teddy Shuck)
Acts 13:26-34 <https://tinyurl.com/27ddmckf>

PONDER: It is interesting that everything that surrounded the death and resurrection of Jesus comes together in the speeches made by both Peter in Acts 2 and here in Paul's address to the church at Pisidia. Peter speaks of the resurrection and coming of the Holy Spirit in his address at Pentecost and here Paul speaks of the Jews not recognizing Jesus and killing him. Paul speaks of God loving his son and giving him eternal life Paul adds that God gave the same promises to Jesus that he gave to David. "Holy and firm" promises that David's line would continue. David died, but his line, as promised, continued through and beyond the parenting of Jesus. Jesus died, but did return to life as promised. Jesus taught us that the forever love he showed in His teachings is love we can have today and always. David was blessed. Jesus, whom we know to be God's son, continues to lead and bless us today.

PRAYER: Thank you for the Jews who were helped by tying together David and Jesus. Thank you for Peter and Paul expressing the love of God that lasts and thank you for the coming of the Holy Spirit to be with us now and forever. Amen.

ACTION: Learn one new thing about the Jews that you may not have understood before.

Friday, February 11, 2022 (by Terry Noble)
1 Peter 1:17-2:1 <https://tinyurl.com/3hezpyya>

PONDER: Sometimes it is a single word or two that will catch our attention when reading scripture. In this passage, the early Christians are once again reminded that through Jesus they have a new and unbreakable relationship with God. However, it is the words "genuine" and "insincerity" which stand out for me. Being our genuine self isn't easy and when you contrast being genuine with being insincere the stakes seem even higher. None of us wants to be insincere to others or have others act with insincerity toward us. Being our genuine selves is open and honest, but it also makes us vulnerable. As we learn to love one another deeply, we can, with God's help, take that chance and bring our true and genuine selves to others.

