

PRAY EVERY DAY April 26, 2020 Resource

God's Tenting Activity from Psalm 68:5-10, NRSV

Father of orphans and protector of widows
is God in his holy habitation.

God gives the desolate a home to live in;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious live in a parched land.

O God, when you went out before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness, *Selah*
the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;
you restored your heritage when it languished;
your flock found a dwelling in it;
in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2020 Challenge

More resources at www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge

April 15 – May 5 “Fruit of the Spirit: Joy”

April 27: Proverbs 10:28; 12:20; 17:22 May 1: John 15:10-11

April 28: Isaiah 12:5-6 May 2: John 16:16-24

April 29: Isaiah 51:10-11 May 3: Hebrews 12:1-3

April 30: Matthew 13:44

Small Group or Personal Study

Pastor Joel is preaching a series on the theme of “temple.” The temple (and tabernacle which was a “tent temple”) theme runs through the Bible as a way that God dwells with us.

Exodus 40 describes the completion of the tabernacle and it is the highlight of the Exodus story. God delivered the Hebrews from slavery, made covenant with them to be their God, and then came to abide with them and guide them in a moveable tent. God would live where they lived – in tents in the wild. God would not only send them to the Promised Land, but would lead them each step of the way.

Read Exodus 40:16-38.

- What does it say to you about God’s presence, salvation, and grace that God lived with the freed slaves in the wilderness in a tent? What do you think about God who went with the Hebrews every step of their journey and will go with you every step?
- There is a refrain that goes through Exodus 40:16-33 and it occurs seven times, “as the LORD commanded Moses.” This refrain answers the directions God gave to Moses in chapters 25 – 31 (also seven times!), “The LORD said to Moses.” The tabernacle was God’s idea. Moses and the Israelites followed God’s directions to make a place for God according to God’s design. How has the church made room for God in our midst? How have you? In what ways have we (or not) made room according to how God desires to be with us?
- When the cloud moved from the tabernacle, the Israelites would pack up and follow where God was leading. When the cloud rested, they would make camp where God told them to stop. This way of moving and stopping kept the Hebrews close to God and close to one

another. Some common ways Christians look to God are scripture (reading and study), prayer, Christian fellowship, corporate worship, serving others, sacraments, small group community, and inviting the Holy Spirit into those practices. What helps you to “move and stop” in rhythm with God and the people of God?

- Take 60 seconds to silence yourself and pray God’s name by breathing, in and out, through your mouth as we learned in Week 1 of the “temple” themed series. Breathe in, “Yah” and breathe out, “way.”

Affirmation of God’s Presence from Habakkuk 2:20, NRSV

But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him!

Spend time in silence

Prayer for others and yourself

The Lord’s Prayer

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Call to Pray at Noon Every Day

Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

We thank you for your blessings, past, present and future. You are our rock and the source of our hope in all things and at all times. As Jehovah Jireh, our provider God, we ask you this day to stretch out your mighty hand and eradicate from the face of the earth forever this virus called COVID-19 (coronavirus) that is spreading rapidly from continent to continent.

We also pray that you, Jehovah Rapha, our healing God, would place your hand upon all of those who have been stricken by this virus and restore them to full health. Be with those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. Protect all who are caring for those with this virus and keep them from contracting it themselves. Calm our fears and provide us with your peace that surpasses all understanding. Strengthen us with the joy of the Lord and help us to hold firmly to the hope that only you can provide.

Unify us that we, the Virginia Annual Conference, may be able to experience anew the promise of your presence in and through the unity of our faith, hope and trust in you in the days ahead and forever. We offer this prayer in the mighty name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.
AMEN.

Share the Love of Jesus because It’s All about Relationships

How will you or how did you share the love of Jesus with neighbor today with no strings attached? Write it down and share about it this week in small group for support and prayer.

God Is Our Salvation from Psalm 68:17-20, NRSV

With mighty chariotry, twice ten thousand, thousands upon thousands,
the LORD came from Sinai into the holy place.

You ascended the high mount, leading captives in your train
and receiving gifts from people,

even from those who rebel against the LORD God’s abiding there.

Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up;

God is our salvation.

Selah

Our God is a God of salvation,

and to GOD, the Lord, belongs escape from death.