

PRAY EVERY DAY August 2, 2020 Resource

*A Treasure from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:19-21, NRSV*

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

*Pearl of Great Price Parable from Matthew 13:45-46, NRSV*

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

*The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2020 Challenge*

More resources at [www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge](http://www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge)

July 29 – August 18 “Fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness”

August 3: Isaiah 42:1-4

August 7: 89:13-18

August 4: Psalm 37:3-4

August 8: Proverbs 12:22

August 5: Psalm 89:1-7

August 9: Proverbs 27:6

August 6: Psalm 89:8-12

*Small Group or Personal Study*

Read Matthew 13:45-46.

Use the questions below for small group or personal study:

- The parable of the Pearl of Great Price includes identity change. The merchant seeking fine pearls at the beginning of the parable is the man with a pearl at the end with nothing left to seek, buy, or sell and so is no longer a merchant. How have you seen identity change in yourself or others who give all for the kingdom of heaven?
- The Greek word for “pearl” is “margarita.” There was one person who heard that and shared the pearl of their life – most important thing – had been drinking, so that she lost everything else: money, job, family. Some pearls can be as costly as the pearl of great price and kingdom of heaven but bring us only to devastation or distraction. What pearls have you sought after that were harmful or just distracting in your life and relationships?
- What would you describe in your life as a pearl of great price that is like the kingdom of heaven to you?

*A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition*

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low by thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

*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.

*A Daily Prayer for Racial Justice and Reconciliation*

*(The following prayer is offered by the Bishop's Work Group on Racial Justice and Reconciliation.)*

O loving God,

We give you thanks for creating the world which is full of diversity  
and for making one human family of all the peoples of the earth.

You reign over all the nations and are seated on your holy throne.

You rule over all the peoples without partiality in respect to nations or races  
because righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.

Forgive us for the times when we put walls around us with false pride and racial prejudice.

Forgive us for the times when we were silent in the face of racism, private or institutional.

Open our eyes to see Christ who is in people of every nation and every culture.

Break down the walls that separate us. Set us free from fear, hatred and racism.

Bind us together with the unity of God's love. Restore oneness to the family of God.

We pray in the name of Jesus who came, lived and died for all humanity. 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.

*Directions for the Rich from 1 Timothy 6:17-19, NRSV*

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.