

PRAY EVERY DAY August 30, 2020 Resource

Remembering God's Love that Seeks Us Out from Psalm 119:176, NRSV

I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek out your servant,
for I do not forget your commandments.

A Prayer by Augustine of Hippo

Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord,
and our hearts are restless until they find rest in thee.

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2020 Challenge

More resources at www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge

August 18 – September 8 “Fruit of the Spirit: Gentleness”

August 31: 1 Peter 3:7-12

September 4: 1 Thessalonians 2:6-8

September 1: 1 Peter 3:13-17

September 5: 1 Timothy 3:2-4

September 2: 2 Samuel 22:31-36

September 6: Titus 3:1-3

September 3: Matthew 11:25-30

Small Group or Personal Study

Read Matthew 18:10-14.

Use the questions below for small group or personal study:

- In Matthew 18:10 Jesus warns not to despise little ones. Jesus revealed those “little ones” have angels in heaven that are before the face of God. This, along with other little one affirmations in Matthew 18 shows those ones are not so little to God; rather they are great ones to God (18:4). Who are those you have looked down upon or despised?
 - How does the importance Jesus gives to little ones impact your view and treatment of little ones?
 - The parable of the lost sheep in vv. 12-13 depicts a scandalous shepherd who leaves the 99 to search for the 1 who was lost and rejoices greatly over finding the one who was lost. What are the risks the shepherd took in leaving the 99?
 - What dangers or difficulties might the shepherd face in searching for a lost sheep?
 - What does the great rejoicing of the shepherd over finding the lost sheep reveal to you about the heart of God?
 - In v. 14 Jesus revealed that God’s will is no little ones should be lost. Who are the little, or lost, or strayed ones in your relationships right now in your family, church, or neighbors?
 - How will you reach out this week to someone who needs the grace of Jesus to find them?

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.

Affirmation of Faith from Luke 19:10, NRSV

"For the Son of Man to seek out and to save the lost."