

PRAY EVERY DAY August 9, 2020 Resource

The Power of Perfect Love Over Fear from 1 John 4:18, NRSV

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

Confidence in God's Help from Psalm 41:10, NRSV

do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2020 Challenge

More resources at www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge

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

August 10: Proverbs 28:20

August 14: 2 Thessalonians 3:3

August 11: Psalm 33:4; 36:5

August 15: 2 Timothy 2:8-13

August 12: 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

August 16: Hebrews 3:1-6

August 13: 1 Thessalonians 5:24

Small Group or Personal Study

Read Exodus 14.

Use the questions below for small group or personal study:

- In Exodus 14 the Israelites had just been set free from slavery in Egypt but they found themselves between the sea and Pharaoh's army coming to take them back and they were afraid. When have you found yourself in a pinch that made you fearful? What difficulties are in your life or relationships at this time that contain fear?

- God was going to use the pinch to show Egyptians and Israel the deliverance of God. Egypt had one of the most powerful armies in the world and the newly freed slaves were still vulnerable but God would fight for the powerless ones. Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance of that the LORD will accomplish for you today” (14:13, NRSV). How have you witnessed God's deliverance? How might God be calling you today to stand up without fear today?

- 1 John 4:8 affirms “there is no fear in love.” Where there is fear in us, it is a sign that there is more of Jesus Christ we can welcome into our lives. What fears are still in your life? How could you welcome the love of Jesus Christ into your life at this time especially in those areas where there is fear?

Moses Encouraged the Freed Slaves as Pharaoh's Army Came from Exodus 14:14, NRSV

“The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.”

A Prayer for Stillness using Psalm 46:10, NRSV

Be still, and know that I am God!	(Take a few moments to reflect on the scripture)
Be still, and know that I am	(Take a few moments to reflect on the scripture)
Be still, and know	(Take a few moments to reflect on the scripture)
Be still	(Take a few moments to reflect on the scripture)
Be	(Take a few moments to reflect on the scripture)

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.

Following Moses' Death, Joshua Encouraged Israel from Joshua 1:9, NRSV

"I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."