

PRAY EVERY DAY October 4, 2020 Resource

Jesus Spoke to the Chief Tax Collector Zacchaeus, Luke 19:9-10 NRSV

“Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

A prayer of Charles Lewis Slattery

Almighty God, thank Thee for the job of this day.
May we find gladness in all its toil and difficulty,
its pleasure and success, and even in its failure and sorrow.
We would look always away from ourselves,
and behold the glory and the need of the world
that we may have the will and the strength to bring the gift of gladness to others;
that with them we stand to bear the burden and heat of the day
and offer Thee the praise of work well done.
Amen.

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2020 Challenge

More resources at www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge

September 30 – October 20 “Fruit of the Spirit: Trust”

October 5: Psalm 40:4-5

October 9: Luke 18:9-14

October 6: Psalm 62:5-8

October 10: Jeremiah 17:5-6

October 7: Isaiah 26:3-4

October 11: Jeremiah 17:7-8

October 8: Psalm 84:10-12

Small Group or Personal Study

Read Matthew 22:1-14

Use the questions below for small group or personal study:

- Notice how the kingdom of heaven keeps on inviting people in the parable of the wedding banquet. In the parable guests are invited, they are told to come and even when they refuse to come, they are invited again. Some are so opposed to the king in the story that they mistreat and kill the king’s servants. When many of the first invited do not go to the wedding, the king tells his servants to invite everyone they can find. The servants listened! They invited the good and the bad. How has God invited you to something? How have you responded or refused to go?
 - What sorts of responses have you received when you have invited people to join in the kingdom of heaven in some way? How have responses influenced how you invite others? Have responses encouraged you to invite more or discouraged you from issuing more invitations?
 - The parable reveals the heart of heaven for everyone to come and share in the joy of God. God does not only want to invite people but for people to come ready for heaven. God desires heaven to be filled with people dressed in the salvation of Jesus Christ. How do you feel about God inviting so many? If you heard Jesus giving this invitation to you today to invite everyone, who are the people you would invite that you run across each week – the good and the bad?

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.

The Great "Go" Jesus Gave to Disciples from Matthew 28:19-20, NRSV

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."