

PRAY EVERY DAY November 1, 2020 Resource

A Question Asked of Christ from Matthew 25:37-39, CEB

“Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?”

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;
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

October 21 – November 10: “Fruit of the Spirit: Mercy”

November 2: Titus 3:1-7	November 6: 1 Timothy 1:12-17
November 3: Mark 5:18-20	November 7: Psalm 123
November 4: Luke 1:46-55	November 8: Hebrews 4:14-16
November 5: Proverbs 28:13	

Small Group or Personal Study

Read Matthew 25:31-46.

Use the questions below for small group or personal study:

- There is a list of six actions in the parable of the sheep and the goats which is repeated four times. These are actions that were either offered or refused to Jesus and the least of these sisters and brothers:
 - (1) hungry and you fed me
 - (2) thirsty and you gave me a drink
 - (3) a stranger and you welcomed me
 - (4) naked and you clothed me
 - (5) sick and you cared for me
 - (6) in prison and you visited me
- Remember or research examples of when God demonstrated those actions in the Bible. Can you find examples for all six? If not, ask someone to help you think of Bible examples.
- Remember or research examples of when Jesus was in the situations above from the incarnation to his resurrection. Can you find examples of all six? If not, ask someone to help you think of Bible examples.
- Who in your family, neighbors, or church fit are experiencing one or many of the six conditions? Take five minutes and write down their names and what they are facing.
- Notice the faithful actions in the parable—sharing food, giving a drink, welcome, sharing clothes, caring, and visiting—do not require extraordinary talents or rare gifts. They are actions anyone can do and those following in the ways of Jesus will do in faith. Which of those actions come easily for you and which are difficult? Which do you do and which do you not do at all?

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 it this week in small group for support and prayer.

The Assurance of Christ from Matthew 25:40, CEB

"Then the king will reply to them, 'I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.'"