

PRAY EVERY DAY April 18, 2021 Resource

*Calling God from Psalm 4:1 (NRSV)*

Answer me when I call, O God of my right!  
You gave me room when I was in distress.  
Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

*The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2021 Challenge (Genesis to Revelation)*

April 19: 1 Kings 18 - 20	April 23: 2 Kings 6 - 8
April 20: 1 Kings 21 - 22	April 24: 2 Kings 9 - 11
April 21: 2 Kings 1 - 3	April 25: 2 Kings 12 - 14
April 22: 2 Kings 4 - 5	

*Small Group or personal study*

Read 1 John 1:1 – 2:2

- Which people or persons do you usually include in your “we”?
- Notice all the “we” language, fellowship, and sharing that is going on in 1 John 1:1 – 2:2.

The “we” is not limited to Christians getting together but includes fellowship with God the Father and Son Jesus Christ. The sharing has ingredients of life, light, forgiveness, and joy that flow from Jesus in relationships among people. “Koinonia” is the Greek word for “fellowship” (1 John 1:3, 6, 7) and Christ opens the possibilities for people to be part of a wonderful “we” in the grace of God.

- How have the fellowship and ingredients of “we” listed above been part of your “we”?
- One of the affirmations of 1 John is that “God is light.” The image of light is carried forward into our fellowship and sharing. If we are staying in the darkness of sin, then we are not in the light of God. Walking in the light does not mean Christians will never sin, but that when sin happens it can be revealed and brought to the mercy and forgiveness of Jesus.
  - How has God been light in your life?
  - How have other people shined the light and grace of Jesus in your life?
  - What sins do you need to bring to the light and forgiveness of Jesus Christ?
  - How will you walk in God’s light with other people today?
  - Notice one of the desires of this passage, “that our joy may be complete.” Joy is one of the signs of Christian koinonia. Let us not hold back joy from life together in Christ.

*A Collect from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979.*

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

*Spend time in silence*

*Prayer for others and yourself*

*The Lord’s Prayer*

*A Daily Prayer for Racial Justice and Reconciliation*

*(The following prayer is offered by the Bishops' 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.

*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.

*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.

*Prayer, Thanksgiving, and Peace in God from Psalm 4:6-8 (NRSV)*

There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!

Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!"

You have put gladness in my heart  
more than when their grain and wine abound.

I will both lie down and sleep in peace;  
for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.