

PRAY EVERY DAY April 3, 2022 Resource

*Household Prayer: Morning\**

Merciful God, as I begin this day, place in me a spirit of generosity so that I may freely share love, joy, and encouragement with those I encounter. Keep me from quick judgments so that I leave room for your grace in my life and in the lives of others. Make me your faithful disciple in my words and in my actions, as well as in the thoughts of my heart; in Jesus' name. Amen.

*A Prayer of Girolamo Savonarola*

Lord, we pray not for tranquility, nor that our tribulations may cease; we pray for thy spirit and thy love, that thou grant us strength and grace to overcome adversity; through Jesus Christ.

*The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2022 Challenge (One Year Bible Reading Plan)*

You may find this plan on the Virginia Annual Conference website <https://vaumc.org> or pick up a copy at KUMC.

*The Bible in a Year with KUMC*

This plan is available at KUMC and on the church website. This plan can be started at anytime.

*Small Group or personal study*

- What was your furthest moment from God this week?
- What was your closest moment to God this week?
- Read Luke 23:13-31
- Pilate declared Jesus innocent and not guilty of anything deserving death. In the end, Pilate gave in to the demands of the crowd to have Jesus crucified. When have you felt pressured to go against your convictions?
  - The crowd kept demanding that Jesus be crucified. Passages like this in Luke and Matthew have sometimes been misused by Christians to cast ongoing blame on Jewish people for the death of Jesus which has produced violence, hatred, and persecution against Jews. A faithful reading is that religious authorities, leaders, and people rejected Jesus so greatly they called for his death and for him to be out of this world. That is a reading where we can find ourselves in the story with the crowd. What are the ways you might prefer Jesus not to interfere in life in the world (your life here) and perhaps to camp out in heaven and just wait for you there or even to stay in the closed tomb and not bother this world in any way again? These are the ways we might have joined in the cry, "Crucify!"
    - There was a clear difference between Barabbas whose name means "son of the father" and Jesus who in Luke prayed to God as "Father" and was claimed by God as "My son." The crowd chose Barabbas who would fight, oppose Rome, and work for violent revolution instead of Jesus who called for love of enemies, love of God, and love of neighbor. When have you preferred leadership and action like Barabbas instead of Jesus? What is attractive about Barabbas? What is so challenging about the ways of Jesus?
    - Simon of Cyrene was made to carry the cross behind Jesus (v. 23:26). Carrying the cross and following Jesus are steps in discipleship (vv. 9:23 and 14:27). Simon's act of service relieved the burden of Jesus and has Simon walking in the footsteps of Jesus to the place of crucifixion.

In what ways could you shoulder the burden of someone who is suffering today and walk with them in faith?

*Spend time in silence*

*Prayer for others and yourself*

*The Lord's Prayer*

*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.

*Household Prayer: Evening\**

All through the day, Lord Jesus, you have been present. As I settle into the routines of home and evening, I long to be at home in my relationship with you. Help me to put aside the cares of the day and the worries of tomorrow in order to fully enjoy the peace of your presence now. I pray that your peace will also be with those I know who have special need of your care tonight, and I pray for those who lie down this night without the safety of home or bed, without enough food or resources. Bring your light into the surrounding darkness so that all of us may sleep in the security of your love. Amen.

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