

PRAY EVERY DAY July 31, 2022 Resource

*Household Prayer: Morning**

Thank you, God of light, for waking me up this morning. May I live wholly for you this day, that whatever I say and do might help make a path for your coming reign. Open my eyes to your goodness and my heart to your children. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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 Hosea 1:1-11 and Hosea 3:1-5
- Hosea's and Gomer's lives became a living illustration of the actions of God and Israel.

Hosea the prophet was to marry the promiscuous Gomer, have children with her, and to redeem her from slavery (3:2 is the cost of a slave). This mirrored God's actions toward Israel. Israel often fell into idolatry, alliances and influence from other kings instead of the Living God, and perpetuating injustice and sin upon the community and land. Notice these passages end with a promise of God's commitment and future blessing for Israel.

- What do you think of God who would choose a spouse like Israel in times when Jeroboam II ruled? What does it say about God to be faithful to the unfaithful?

- How would you feel if you were Hosea and called to marry an adulterous person?

While Hosea may be the only person to receive that specific call, the God who loved Israel at that time is the same God who loves peoples like Israel today. Jesus who gave his life for sinners even calls us to give our lives, commitment, and energy in the same way. What might it mean for you to faithfully extend the grace of Jesus Christ to a family member, neighbor, or person in your church who was for a time unfaithful?

- What would it be like to be Gomer or Israel in this story? For many of us, this is our story of the God who is faithful, forgiving, and saves when we have been faithless, sinning, and slaves to the idols we thought had the power to save us.

- In what way might your life be like a living illustration of saving power of God? It does not need be the same illustration that Hosea and Gomer provided.

A Prayer of Boniface

Eternal God, the refuge of all your children, in our weakness you are our strength, in our darkness our light, in our sorrow our comfort and peace. May we always live in your presence, and serve you in our daily lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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**

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of this day, its challenges and its blessings, its burdens and its delights. Forgive my failures and misdeeds and refine my heart, that I may greet the new day to live more faithfully for you. Amen.

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