

PRAY EVERY DAY August 21, 2022 Resource

*Household Prayer: Morning**

God of life and love, we come to this new day refreshed from the refuge of sleep and rest. Sustain us in the coming hours, that we might return this evening, inspired by your witness in the world and having done your will. 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 Judges 6:11-18. For more of Gideon's story you could read Judges 6 – 8.
- When the angel of the LORD spoke to Gideon, Gideon did not recognize that God was speaking to him. To Gideon's credit, later in the story, Gideon does recognize when the LORD speaks. When was there a time God was trying to speak to you but you didn't recognize it was God? When have you had a time you did recognize God's speaking? What has God said to you?
- Gideon is well known for asking God for signs. After asking for so many signs, God even prepares signs in advance for Gideon (Judges 6:9-11). The greatest sign God has given is in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the fullness of what God's grace and salvation are and Jesus is also a full expression of what it means to be human. When you need a sign from God, look to Jesus. In God's mercy, God does give signs that point us to the goodness of God. Have you ever asked God for sign, and, if so, what happened? Has God ever given you a sign that pointed you to God?
- Salvation in the story of Gideon comes from God. In Judges 7, God wants to make sure that Israel sees God's saving power by reducing Gideon's forces from 32,000 to 300 and when the 300 go forward they are not even noted as carrying weapons. It was the salvation of God that brought deliverance throughout the story – not strength of Gideon, weapons, or idols. The proper confidence that we may have as Christians comes in God's first word to Gideon, "The LORD is with you, you mighty warrior" (Judges 6:13). It is God's initiative, grace in Jesus Christ, and presence of the Holy Spirit that gives us courage to love neighbor, make disciples, do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. When God is with you and guiding you, God will be faithful. You can count on God. Is there any way it is difficult to fully rely on Jesus for you? Has something happened that helps you trust in God?
- Before Gideon sets out to deliver Israel from oppression, Gideon first is called to get rid of his idols and false gods and to instead worship the LORD (Judges 6:25-36). The Living God does not leave us to no-gods that cannot bring peace or true life. Are there any things that compete for your allegiance to Giver of all good things? Is there any way you need to renew your worship and trust in God?

Hymn "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" by Anonymous

I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

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?

*Household Prayer: Evening**

Lord and keeper of our days, give us your rest this night. Release us from the burdens of the day. Awaken us, refreshed for your service at the dawn, upright in our praise and thanksgiving. Amen.

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