

PRAY EVERY DAY August 28, 2022 Resource

*Household Prayer: Morning\**

God, in the freshness of the new day, help us to retain clarity of vision so that we might seek the honor of your kingdom rather than the honor of the world. Sustain us throughout the day so that we might return filled by the grace of your spirit. 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 13:1-7 and through the story of Samson this week in Judges 13 – 16.
- Things have gotten bad for Israel by Judges 13 and they only get worse through the rest of the book. Israel does not cry out to God for salvation or guidance. The people of God fall to betraying, oppressing, and destroying each other. Idolatry and self-interest abound. There is a noticeable change in how the women of Israel are treated/depicted from early in Judges like Achsah, Deborah, and Jael – who have voice, power, and respect – to later in Judges when women often are unnamed, not listened to, and become subjects of violence. Some commentators note that the treatment of women by the people of God may be one indicator of faith and obedience to God. How is your household doing in crying out to God for salvation, loving neighbor and building up the Church, serving God in word and deed, and upholding the voice, power, and respect of women? How is the Church doing?
  - Samson was to be “set apart, consecrated” to God, a nazirite, from birth until his death. Read Numbers 6:1-21 to learn more about the vow of the nazirite: no alcohol; no grapes (seeds, skin, or raisins); no eating unclean foods (no bacon!); no haircuts; no touching corpses. Nazirites were to be holy all the days of their vow. It is notable that Samson did not choose this vow or the duration. It was God’s choice for him. You can also read and see how Samson did not keep his vows nor was he particularly holy to the Lord. What are the ways God has set you apart to be holy in Christ? What are God’s choices for you?
  - Samson is a good example of a bad example. Note that God still worked through Samson to bring some little relief to Israel from their oppressors. Even when leaders like Samson are unfaithful, God is faithful and ready to save. The story of Samson certainly highlights the need for faithful leaders. It also highlights how God can work through just about anyone. Would you be willing to let God work in you to bring salvation to others? How are you tempted to settle for limited leading like Samson? How are you opening your life to God’s strength to be conformed to Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29) and lead like Jesus?

*A prayer for all Christians in their vocation from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979*

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before you

for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*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\**

God of compassion, help us to release the regrets of the day into your care. Refresh us in our sleep, that we may rise in the morning confident in your love and strengthened in our faith. Amen.

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