

PRAY EVERY DAY September 11, 2022 Resource

*Household Prayer: Morning**

Persistent God, as the day begins and the light increases, let me drink deeply of your grace. As the day unfolds, when my heart strays from you, call me back to this moment. Come after me as surely as a woman searches for treasure lost. If I am deaf and satisfied, if I resent the needs of others, blow strong against me. Do not leave me in foolishness—for I would have your mercy flow from me: I would be a refuge for those who wander; I would lend my heart to celebrations; I would speak your 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 Luke 15:1-10.
- When have you lost something and searched for it though it was hard to find? When have you started a collection and kept searching until every part of it was found? How does it feel to find something that was lost? How does it feel to search and not find what is missing?
 - Pharisees and scribes were religious leaders and not so thrilled about Jesus welcoming, eating with, and teaching tax collectors and sinners. They grumbled. Who are some people that have some connection to Jesus that Christians may or have grumbled about? Who may you grumble about if Jesus welcomed them to the Lord's table?
 - Jesus told teaching stories with a surprise in the lost sheep and lost coin. What do you find surprising in each of these stories?
 - One of the surprises is the high level of celebration at finding what was lost. Luke writes about the abounding joy in heaven when a sinner turns to God. It is a joy like someone inviting all their neighbors and friends to celebrate. It is a joy where heaven, angels, and Jesus invite everyone to join in and not miss the joy of God. When have you been sulky at certain people receiving mercy from God? When have you rejoiced when certain people received mercy from God?
 - The lost sheep and coin parables emphasize the one who searches and rejoices greatly when the lost is found. Read Ezekiel 34 and consider God's commitment to seek and find the lost, abandoned, and abused of Israel and bring them home to God's peace. What do you think of the God who searches for the lost and rejoices so when they are found?
 - Invite God to meet you right where you are now in prayer. Take a few moments in silence to remember God is with you. Take a few moments in silence to join in the rejoicing that is happening in heaven right now because God is rescuing the lost.

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**

Patient, persistent God, I offer the day-that-has-been to you, knowing that I was not alone, even when I wandered and filled my heart with noise. [*silent prayer*] As darkness falls, as I yield to sleep, seek me again in my dreams. Call to me in ways beyond my knowing that I might find the strength to feed your people, that I might live, again, to call your name, that I might know the joy of every stranger headed home. For the mercy of the Christ will sustain me and the power of the Spirit send me forth. Amen.

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