

PRAY EVERY DAY October 9, 2022 Resource

*Household Prayer: Morning**

Glorious God, I praise you. I praise you for who you are—loving, merciful, powerful, and just. I praise you for the ways you act in creation—creating beauty, bringing freedom, making peace, offering healing. Thank you for opportunities I will have today to glorify you in my words and actions. Thank you for this day in which I am able to enjoy you by participating in your activity in the world. I pray that the enmity between people and nations may give way to true communion. In the name of Christ, the great Reconciler, I pray. 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.

The Serenity Prayer (Long Form)

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as the pathway to peace; taking, as He did, his sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will; so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever and ever in the next.

Amen.

Small Group or personal study

- What was your furthest moment from God this week?
- What was your closest moment to God this week?
- Read Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14
- This passage from Jeremiah recalls a letter Jeremiah sent to Jewish exiles in Babylon who went there in 597 BC. That was a first wave of exiles. The temple was still standing, Jerusalem had not fallen, a Jewish king had been set up by Babylon. Some hoped for a quick return to normal or a sudden failure of Babylon but God shared exile would last like 70 years, which is a good image for “a lifetime” or “the rest of your life” or “most of the rest of your life”. The full brunt of exile came in 586 BC when temple and Jerusalem were destroyed and many more were displaced from home and land with more sent into exile. What difficulty in your life or community compares to exile—one that will last for a long time and not be remedied quickly?
 - There is a promise in this letter to the first exiles that though exile would last a long time, it would not last forever. Exile would have an end and God would bring them home. What are the difficulties in your life or community that you can give God praise for that though they may last a long time, they will not last forever? God can indeed bring us to the home and healing of that place Jesus Christ prepares for us (John 14).
 - Though exile would be difficult, God calls the exiles to “build houses, live, plant gardens, eat, marry, multiply, and pray for the welfare of the place of exile.” This is a reminder

to engage with life, home, work, creation, family, community, and God. What act of engagement with life that is right before you today would be a faithful act for you today?

- Jeremiah 29:11 is a favorite scripture verse for many people. What is a favorite scripture verse of yours that helps you: live into the promises or grace of God; or be obedient to God; or gives you hope? If you have not found a favorite verse, Bible story, or scripture passage yet, begin reading the Bible until you find one (or a few!).

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**

Loving God, I end this day as I began it—in praise of you. Thank you for including me in your great circle of love and care. Thank you for being with us always. Thank you, too, for calling me to love others and to treat everyone as my neighbor. Help me to notice those whose cries for mercy so often go unheard or unanswered, for I am joined to them by being joined to you. I pray in awe of the life you have given me through faith in Jesus Christ. Amen.

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