

## PRAY EVERY DAY July 23, 2023 Resource

### *Praying the Psalms: Psalm 139*

#### *A Collect from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979*

Almighty God, fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

#### *The Bible in a Year with KUMC*

This plan is available at KUMC and on the church website. This plan can be started at any time.

#### *Small Group or personal study*

- What was your furthest moment from God this week?
- What was your closest moment to God this week?
- Read Genesis 28:10-22

• Jacob is fleeing his home in Genesis 28 since his brother Esau planned to kill him and his parents have sent him away to find a wife. Jacob has almost nothing with him as he has to use a rock for a pillow. There is danger behind him, uncertainly before him, and he stops to rest because of darkness around him. That is the place where the LORD came to speak to Jacob.

When has God come to you with grace when you weren't expecting it?

- In Jacob's dream he sees a ladder, staircase, or ramp to heaven that probably resembled the ziggurat temples in Mesopotamia. The LORD reverses what is probably expected by not waiting for Jacob to climb up to where God was in heaven, but the LORD appeared right beside Jacob in his fleeing his home. God did not lift up Jacob to heaven, but brought the presence and promises down to where Jacob was. What grace do you need right where you are?

- God made a covenant with Jacob including him in the promises to Abraham and Isaac. The promises God made in vv. 13-15 rely completely on God to fulfill them. They are what God is going to do and not dependent upon Jacob. It will be Jacob who is dependent upon God and Jacob will have the opportunity to (1) respond to God, (2) cooperate with God, and (3) trust in God. What are the things God promised to do in Jacob? What are the sorts of things God promises to do in Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Church?

- Jacob woke up and recognized that God had come to him and so named that place Bethel, "House of God." Jacob responded by watching to see if God would do what God promised and marking the place where God came to him. What is one promise from God you could highlight today and wait for to see God fulfill?

#### *Wrestling with God for 40 Days in Prayer (July 16-August 24)*

Consider these questions (from Bishop Will Willimon) in prayer each day and journal in your notebook.

- Where is the hope for our congregation?
- Lord, what are your plans for us now?
- How can our congregation discover what Christ is up to in our neighborhood and how can we hitch on to what Christ is doing?
- What part of your mission, Jesus, have you assigned to our congregation?

- How can we stop doing some of the things we have been doing so we can start doing some of the things God wants us to do?
- What are some appropriate goals and mission strategies for us in this moment?
- What sort of pastoral leadership is required now to keep up with Christ as he strides into his future?

*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?

*Praying the Psalms: Psalm 121*