

PRAY EVERY DAY July 30, 2023 Resource

Praying the Psalms: Psalm 105

A Collect from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the thing eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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 29:15-35. Then read the fuller story of Genesis 29–31.
- Genesis 29–31 is a humorous and tragic story of people wrestling with each other and trying to gain an advantage over each other. Laban tries to control Jacob's labor to benefit Laban. Leah longs for respect and her husband's love so she strives to have children. Rachel is envious of Leah's fruitfulness and will try to use Jacob, Bilhah, and mandrakes to try to gain an advantage. Jacob who deceived his father Isaac and brother Esau, was no match at deception or force when confronted by Laban. Jacob tried things like rods to gain a flock of his own. In all this grasping and wrestling, it was the LORD who: protected, blessed, and delivered Jacob; gave children and honor to Leah, Rachel, Bilhah, and Zilpah; and kept Laban from destroying Jacob. In what ways do you see God's faithfulness and grace in these stories?
 - Jacob, Leah, Rachel, Bilhah, and Zilpah may seem like a strange lot for God to use to bear the twelve tribes of Israel but this is who God chose and blessed. Not one of them could have brought forth new life on their own. The ones who find times of joy, praise, thankfulness, and deliverance turned their eyes to what God was doing. This highlights the faithfulness and goodness of the LORD. It also reveals the ordinary people and strange situations through which God is still able to bring life, direction, and salvation. What strange situation is around you through which God may already be working grace, direction, and salvation?

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 91