

## DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

*As the people of God we should be committed to reading Scripture every day. Here are daily readings and questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and we would be honored to provide one. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number of the book. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.*

### **Monday, Oct 31<sup>st</sup> – Jeremiah 29:11-13; Romans 8:28; Isaiah 58:11-12**

This week we will look at what being in mission for Jesus is like. Whether you are serving locally or traveling abroad, the plans, preparations and experiences have common themes. The team was ready! Plans were complete – devotions, prayers, and preparation. They knew the job to be done! As each day passed, God gently reminded them that they were carrying out His plan and it may look different than what we envisioned. What does God tell Jeremiah about his plans? How can this be assuring when our plans to serve begin to change and outcome differs? Change is not necessarily bad, and can be the work of God. See how Paul explains that in Romans 8:28. God loved our team, our prayer warriors, our encouragers and the owner/family of the home. God worked things out so that He would be glorified. Read Isaiah 58:11-12. How have all of us lived into this passage? Consider today when you have prepared or anticipated something only to find the outcome totally different. Do you ask God first and trust He will show you the way? Do you remember it is His work? The results of practicing this openness will amaze you!

### **Tuesday, Nov 1<sup>st</sup> – Proverbs 3:5-6**

Once the desire to serve grabs you, our instinct is to lay out the plans of how, what, where, when and why. This is not a bad way to start, since without some plans we might never move forward. However, Solomon has some great advice we need to apply. What is the first thing that Solomon says (vs. 5)? While we know we need to make some plans, we do tend to discount the big over the top ideas, because we don't think we can do them. Our real capability is limited due to our understanding of what we think we can accomplish in our power. So when we get that big hairy audacious idea (BHAG), before we just dismiss it we need to practice verse 6? Pause today and consider how our mission trips began. No one thought anyone would sign up. We had no money, so this would never fly. We were too old, too busy, too sick, too \_\_\_\_? But we sought God's will for our lives and look what has happened: 3 trips to Red Bird with new people each time; people from their teens to their 70's went; and miracles happened each time where the team, supported by the prayers of the congregation, were able to do more than expected and the money was always there to help. Think back on your life. Where have you let the understanding of your mind deter you from the path that God laid out for you? How can you become more aware of this going forward? Is God calling you to serve?

### **Wednesday, Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> – Luke 9:1-6 and Matthew 28:19-20**

So many people wonder why we have to leave the walls of the church to do missions. The answer to that question is found in the Gospels and by the example of Jesus Christ. As you read Luke 9, how does Jesus answer the question about mission being outside the walls of the church? Did he only send a few of the disciples or all of the disciples? What was the task they were to accomplish (vss. 1-2)? Jesus also instructs them as to what not to take (vss. 3-6). Why do you think Jesus wants to take nothing? How does taking all our "stuff" with us actually interfere with God's plans? What if we just needed to rely on God to provide and guide when we are sent? In addition to being sent, Jesus commands us to "Go" and make and mature disciples. It is not about coming to this building, behind these walls, and hoping others who need help will come. Rather, it is simply, "Go!" God has a plan for everyone to be involved in Outreach, which includes missions. How can you be involved? Did you pray? Did you write encouraging notes? Did you contribute funds to help those who actually went? How can you get involved next year?

### **Thursday, Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> – Ephesians 2:12-13; Romans 8:22-25.**

The Appalachian Mountains are beautiful. But when you get the chance to go into one of the homes, and see how they live, and how desperate they are for a little encouragement, it can strike you very deeply. You want to do whatever you can to help out while you are there. The best thing we can offer, besides our physical repairs on their homes, is the hope that comes in Jesus. The people in these areas while believers, do seem to struggle to hold on to hope. There are no jobs. Travel is difficult and expensive. It struck us that the main commodity that the churches in the area and the missionaries who come each year would have to give these people is hope, and that hope is what we have in Jesus Christ. Paul tells the Ephesians that before they came to salvation in Christ, they were without hope and without God in the world. In our Romans passage, we hear about how all of us are groaning as we wait for Jesus to return and to redeem and adopt us as sons. Verse 24 tells us that it is in this hope that we are saved. Consider today the connection between God and hope. With God in the world and in our hearts, we have hope for today and for tomorrow, both for this world and for eternity in Jesus Christ. Whom do you know that needs hope? How can you share your hope in Christ with them?

### **Friday, Nov 4<sup>th</sup> – Matthew 25:31-46**

We end the week with Jesus' teaching of when the King (Jesus) returns. Note there are two different groups – sheep and goats. What did the sheep do (vss. 35-40)? How does our outreach here at Saint James reflect this? What did the goats fail to do (vss. 42-45)? As sheep of God's pasture, we do not have to do everything, but we do have to reach out to help when God places opportunities in our path. As Kathy Barbour says, "We don't have to do everything, but we have to do something." And remember, every "something" we do is to be done in the name of Jesus, and that is to be shared with those we help. It is not about just doing, but sharing hope in Christ as well. How can you help and share today? Pray to God, asking for the opportunity and then seize it when it comes!

### **Saturday, Nov 5<sup>th</sup> – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Revelation 21:1-6.**

