

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God we should commit to reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number. 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, June 1st – John 14:15-26; John 16:4-15

This week we will look at the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of God's children. We start with what Jesus says about the Holy Spirit. In verse 16, who does Jesus say God will send us? If you have them available, look at the various translations to see how they describe who the Father sends. The Greek word used in John is "paraclete" and each of the translations uses a word that describes the paraclete. Where will those who receive the Holy Spirit experience him (vs. 17)? Now read verses 18-24. How does our experience of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us fit into Jesus' discourse to the disciples? How does Jesus confirm our experiences are true (vss. 25-26)? Now let's jump to John 16:4-15 to see what else Jesus has to say about the Holy Spirit. What is Jesus' promise to the disciples (vss. 4-7)? Verses 8-15 tell us what the Holy Spirit will do. There are four things. Can you list them? Which of these have you experienced? If you have not experienced them, why not? Could you be blocking the Holy Spirit from his doing His work in your life? Spend some time in prayer today asking the Holy Spirit to bless you with the conviction of your sins, of Christ's righteousness and judgment, and for the Spirit to guide you into all truth. You might be surprised at what awaits you in your prayer time.

Tuesday, June 2nd – Acts 1:6-8 and Acts 2:1-13 (if ambitious read all of Chapter 2)

Yesterday Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit. These were words of comfort for disciples who were going to live through Jesus' arrest, torture, crucifixion and burial. Today we pick up on the promise Jesus made, after he resurrected from the dead. As you read our first passage today, what will they receive when the Holy Spirit arrives (vs. 8)? What will this power enable the disciples to do and be for Christ? When we profess our faith in Jesus and are baptized, we receive the Holy Spirit. Based on what Jesus says about the Holy Spirit, what does that mean, having this power in you? As you read Acts 2:1-13, how did what Jesus say come true? What power was shared? How did some people think about this power (vs. 13)? How does that happen today? You share something in the power of the Holy Spirit and someone dismisses it as just another explanation. If you are ambitious enough to read further, how does the power of the Holy Spirit show up in Peter? If we are operating in the power of the Holy Spirit, then it is not our ideas and witness, but God's movement and love in our lives. Consider today to whom the Holy Spirit is calling you to witness. Offer yourself to God to use in this way. Then see what happens today!

Wednesday, June 3rd – Acts 4:23-37; Acts 9:31

As the church spread, so did the power of the Holy Spirit. Speaking out boldly got them arrested on more than one occasion. Following one such experience is where our text picks up today. What is the church (the people) praying about and for (vss. 24-30)? The power was in the name of Jesus, but the boldness and miracles flowed from the power of the Holy Spirit. What was the result of this powerful prayer (vs. 31)? Now verses 32-37 describe what living in the power of the Holy Spirit as community looked like. What specifically was happening in the midst of the people (vs. 33)? How do we at Saint James express this kind of fellowship? It is important to understand and see the power of the Holy Spirit in our midst and let it move and guide us. We too are experiencing great things and powers and miracles. Spend time praising God and being attentive to his Holy Spirit's movement in our midst.

Thursday, June 4th – 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

We have discussed power and boldness, unity and miracles as the work of the Holy Spirit. Today we turn to the gifts the Holy Spirit gives to God's children. In verses 1-4, what does Paul teach us about what believers with the Holy Spirit can and cannot say? Now read verses 5-11. We all get gifts! In verse 7, who are our gifts for? This means that the things we need are in others. What are some of the gifts that are given by the Holy Spirit? Who is the giver of the gifts (vs. 11)? From reading this text, is one gift more important than any other? What Holy Spirit gifts do you have? Do you even know what gifts you have? If you are not sure, it is really rather simple to discover. Just let Pastor Shirley know and she will get you started. Since your Holy Spirit gifts are for the community of believers, then you will find fulfillment and pleasure in putting your gift(s) to use. Pray about what your gifts are and how you can use them to serve others here at Saint James and in the universal church.

Friday, June 5th – 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

We close this week with Paul's letter to the church in Thessalonica. Here we read Paul's opening statements to the church. What does he note about the people as he prays for them (vss. 3-4)? What evidence does Paul give to them that he knows they are chosen by God (vss. 5-6)? What is the result of this work of the Holy Spirit (vss. 7-10)? The Holy Spirit brought a distinct change/transformation to their lives. A result that became and was used by the Holy Spirit to bear witness to the surrounding area, just as we read in Acts. This is still the Holy Spirit's work today. It hasn't changed. In reading verses 7-10, where have these transformations taken place in your life? How have they been a witness to your neighbors and in your sphere of influence in the world? What idols have you left behind? Where does the Spirit's joy overflow in you? Joy is another work of the Holy Spirit as it is the fruit of the Spirit along with love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control. These are what emanated from the church in Thessalonica, even in the most difficult of times. Pray today asking the Holy Spirit to work in and through you this way today and every day so that others can see your witness in a world that struggles so.

Saturday, June 6th – In preparation for tomorrow's worship, please read 1 Samuel 13:8-15