

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God we should commitment 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, August 21st – Acts 3:11-26 (Connect)

This week we will look at what the Scriptures teach us regarding our vision statement (what we will look like when we fully live into the Mission). We learned in yesterday's message that we are called to be witnesses. Our text today is about Peter being a witness to what has happened and what he knows. Let's see how he witnesses to crowds in Jerusalem. First do a cursory read of verses 1-10, so you have context. Now read verses 11-12a. What happens and who notices? You see, Peter is paying attention to what is happening around him and when he sees the opportunity, he opens his mouth to speak. How does Peter start his witness (vs. 12)? Most of the time we don't start by telling people, but by asking a question based on what we saw. Now read verses 14-15. What did Peter witness? Does he sugarcoat this witness or does he state facts, even if painful to hear? How does he tie his witness to those listeners (vss. 12-15)? How does Peter explain the miracle (vs. 16)? As you read verses 17-18, do you sense a turn from rebuke to compassion? The next connection is invitation. What does Peter invite those he has been witnessing to, to do (vss. 19-21)? We don't seem to invite people to repent anymore. Why is that? Now read verses 22-24. What does Peter witness about now? How does this connect with the listeners? Why does Peter say that this matters (vss. 25-26)? Do you see the connection from Scripture to life? Re-read the whole text now. Notice Peter only speaks to what he knows. He offers the opportunity for Repentance and Restoration (parts of the Good News cards). As you prepare to be a witness, consider your answer to these questions. Are you paying attention to the opportunities that God is placing before you? Are you asking questions? Do you trust that God will give you the necessary answers? Are you bold enough to speak truth in love and to invite folks to repent and be restored? Don't forget to pray, asking God to use you to bring someone to Jesus through your witness. Ask God to get you connected to someone in need for His glory.

Tuesday, August 22nd – 1 Timothy 1:12-17 (Connect)

Today we will look at one of Paul's many witnesses to the faith. Paul knew his story and in the power of the Holy Spirit was able to share it boldly with others. Sometimes our witness is to build up the body of believers to become solid and bold witnesses themselves. This is Paul's witness to his young protégé, Timothy. Why is Paul grateful to God (vss. 12-13)? What did Paul receive from God (vs. 14)? Verse 15 is the crux of this text. It is Paul's personal witness and confession. What is Paul's witness? We are all like Paul. It is this truth in which we believe. What is your witness, based on this truth? Be specific like Paul. Name it out loud. Write it down. Don't just say, "I'm a sinner." We are all sinners. Why are you sinner? What sins do you keep doing? Where have you repented and were saved? We need to know our stories, before we can be witnesses to the saving grace of Jesus. And we must be honest about it. Why is it important that we can state our sins truthfully (vs. 16)? How does Paul praise God for what God has done (vs. 17)? Consider those who struggle around you. Have you had the same struggles? How had God helped you? How might God help them, if you open yourself up and are willing to share when the time is right? Spend time today writing your story—your witness. You might consider writing it like Paul in a letter, so you can keep it short and concise. Practice doing this, since it is only in practice and honesty that we can be faithful witnesses.

Wednesday, August 23rd – Acts 9:32-43 (Care)

Today we will focus on what a caring community looks like and the effects it can have on the world around it. Read verses 32-34. Who was Peter hanging out with? What need arose in the midst of the believers? How did Peter address this need? What was the result (vs. 35)? Notice that it is "all" the residents, not just the believers who turned to the Lord. Who did the heavy lifting? Who made himself available? Jesus did the healing. Peter just made himself available. The Holy Spirit helped others to turn to the Lord. Now read verses 36-37. What was Dorcas known for doing? What happened? What do the believers do (vs. 38)? What happened next (vss. 39-41)? Why do you think Dorcas was raised from the dead? How is her being raised both a witness and a blessing to others? Does this act demonstrate Peter's care for the greater community? What was the larger result (vs. 42)? How did these "others" know about Dorcas being raised? This must mean the community gave their witness of the great love and care God gives His children, who also love and care for each other. Do you have a witness of how someone in the church cared or cares for you? Whom do you share that witness with? How might God use that witness to help others come to faith or be strengthened in the faith? What story do you need to tell? To whom shall you tell it?

Thursday, August 24th – John 21:12-17 (Care)

Care is the theme again today. Jesus not only took care of his creation, but instructs Peter (and us) to do the same. It is how we show love for each other and those in the world. This is prior to the ascension and the last time that Jesus will appear to the disciples. For a quick context check, you can read verses 1-11 first. What is the setting of this text (vss. 12-14)? Keep in mind this conversation takes place after Peter has denied Jesus three times, thus abandoning him. Read verse 15. What is the first question Jesus asks Peter? How does Peter respond? Because of that response, what does Jesus tell Peter to do? Now read verse 16. Though Jesus' question is the same, yet there is a difference. What is it? How does Peter respond? What instructions does Jesus give to Peter? Again, what is the difference? Now read verse 17. It seems repetitive, but there are still slight differences. What are they? Who do you think are "lambs" in the faith? Who do you think are sheep in the faith? Why should we care for lambs and sheep? As you answer this, consider the question Jesus asks. How do these instructions guide us in living a life of caring for those in the community and those whom we are inviting to be a part of the community? If we are going to be bold witnesses of care, we probably should both experience it and demonstrate it. How are you being a bold witness to care for others as, Christ instructs us to do?

Friday, August 25th – Romans 10:5-17 (go to 21 if you feel ambitious) (Commit)

We finish this week with a look at Commit. This ties into our maturity as loving followers. Let's begin by reading verses 5-14. What is Paul comparing and contrasting in verses 5-8? What does righteousness from faith say (vs. 8)? Why is this important (vss. 9-13)? Now Paul asks three very important questions in verse 14. What are they? As you read these questions, let's consider some clichés we throw around today, when we talk about committing to replicating ourselves. How about when we say that we will just live a godly life that others can see. But how will they hear? How will they know it is a godly life, if you don't witness to why? Or how about I'm just going to plant seeds by doing kind acts. That's great, but guess what? It is time to bring in the harvest. That's what mature farmers do, bring in the harvest before planting more seeds. Mature loving followers of Jesus not only connect and care, but commit to bringing in the harvest. What seeds have you planted that God is ready for you to harvest through connecting, caring and committing, replicating yourself as a loving follower of Jesus Christ?

Saturday, August 26th – In preparation for tomorrow's worship, please read James 1:2.