

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 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. 1st – Mark 10:35-45

This week we will focus on what it looks like from a Biblical stance to be on mission with Jesus serving others. I do want you to know that there are no age factors in these instructions, as there is no retirement plan from Kingdom building, just a promotion from here on earth to work in heaven. We start with a hang-up many of us get caught up in. What is the request being made (vss. 35-38)? Everyone wants to know who is in charge and makes the decisions. Who is the leader of the mission? Notice they are looking for honor. They want to sit in places of power, decision-making, importance. Notice how Jesus answers (vs. 38). What does this tell you about positions of honor in God's Kingdom? In other words, sitting in those positions is no picnic. How does Jesus actually answer the question (vs. 39)? Now the others got wind of what James and John were up to. How did they respond (vs. 41)? Why did they react this way? Do we not all react this way from time to time? Then Jesus teaches what true leadership looks like, using a contrasting illustration. What is leadership not like (vs. 42)? What does true missional leadership look like (vss. 43-44)? So who is our example that we should follow for all of this (vs. 45)? Leading a mission is not about honor and recognition, it is about serving as a slave – because it is your *job*. We are all called to mission of some sort for the Kingdom of God. Do you serve as a slave or are you still looking for recognition and power? Where are you serving now? Do you need to hear the call and begin serving somewhere? As Kathy has said for years, you don't have to do everything, but you must do something. What is your something and what is your posture of service?

Tuesday, Oct. 2nd – Romans 12:9-21

As we continue to learn on how to serve in missions, we move to the book of Romans. This passage is part of a larger text, where Paul is speaking about how God equips the church for mission through spiritual gifts. As we read, what is the first instruction Paul gives when it comes to serving others (vss. 9-10)? Everything, truly everything begins with love – not the emotional squishy stuff, but the tough stuff that will hate wrongs and cling to what is good. How else are we to serve (vs. 11)? Notice that we are to be enthusiastic, not whiners. As you move to verse 12, notice that not all things are going smoothly and there will be troubles. How are we to deal with this? What are the practices we are to adopt towards each other (vs. 13)? Now read verses 14-20. In what other practices should we be engaged? Pray for others, be happy with those who are happy, cry with those who cry, be willing to hang out with everyone no matter what, and live in peace and harmony. Verse 21 sums up this portion of text. What is the point? None of these are dependent on your age. Rather everyone from the youngest to the oldest can do this. So who do you need to pray for, socialize with, help, cry with, be happy with, or learn to live with in peace and harmony? Who do you need to love, because serving without love ends up like what we learned about yesterday, where you are simply serving for credit and not as the loving slaves we are called to be. Pray today asking God to open your eyes and heart to where he calls you to mission. Here is the prayer of Saint James to get you started. ***“Lord, open my eyes this week to see opportunities to share my faith with the people you will bring across my path.”***

Wednesday, Oct. 3rd – 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (if ambitious today, read verses 12-31 too)

Did you know that the number one reason to not serve at Saint James is “I’m not called to that,” or “I’m too tired”? We need to as a church, begin to know that we are *all* called to do something and that we will not live into our full created potential, until we know and understand what God has called us to do for the Kingdom. And we are tired, because we are probably working outside our giftedness. Paul writes to the Corinthians about how this Kingdom Mission works. How does it start (vss. 4-7)? Does this mean that only some of us have gifts to serve or do all of us have these gifts? What are some examples of these gifts given to us (vss. 8-10)? Do any of these create a stirring in your heart as you read them? Why do we all need different gifts? Consider what it would look like, if we all had the same gifts. Who decides what your gift is (vs. 11)? Burn-out (exhaustion) comes from working outside our giftedness on a continual basis. So it is very important to find out what your gift is, because Saint James and Jesus need you to use your body for the Kingdom's sake in our community. If you do not know your gift, see Pastor Shirley this week to determine it, so you can begin living a fulfilled life in Jesus.

Thursday, Oct. 4th – Acts 9:36-43

Today we will read the story of Dorcas (also known as Tabitha). As you read verses 36 and 39, what was Dorcas known for doing? Notice she did not go away to do this. Her acts of kindness were within her community. What happens to Dorcas (vss. 37-38)? Why do you think Peter was called for in this case? What happens (vss. 40-41)? What is the result of this miracle (vss. 42-43)? Is this not what Jesus says the church is to do, heal the sick, raise the dead, make disciples? Consider how the life, death, and resurrection of Dorcas accomplishes these things. What about Peter? What if he had said no? Consider who would miss you if you die. Have you made such an impact on the community that folks would miss you? Has Saint James made such an impact that if we were gone, we would be missed? How can you serve in such a way that you would point others to Christ? How might Saint James make a Kingdom-size impact in our surrounding communities? Who can we together heal, raise from the dead in their lives, and make into disciples for Jesus? Spend time praying, asking God to show you today where you are to witness and serve.

Friday, Oct. 5th – Matthew 28:19-20

We finish today with the great commission. What does Jesus tell us to do? Looking back on your life, how many people have you led to Christ and discipled? If Jesus came tomorrow, who would thank you for sharing? Who would ask you why you never shared? How is God leading you to be in service to Him, so He can use you to bring others to saving grace and help them mature in the faith. Who will be your living Christian legacy?

Saturday, Oct. 6th – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.