

Walking Together in the Word

Devotions on the Weekly Scripture Readings for June 2024

The purpose of the Chapel Devotion Project is to encourage individuals and families to make prayer and devotional time in God's Word a regular part of their daily lives. We believe many good things will come from your intentional study and reflection of God's Word:

- Your relationship with God and with others will grow and be strengthened.
- Study of the Scripture and hymns for the upcoming weekend will enhance your worship.
- You will come to the Lord daily in prayer, bringing your praise, thanks, and requests to Him.

How to Use These Devotions

Each week contains five pages of devotional material. How you choose to use the material is up to you. You could study one reading or one page a day. You might read several portions every other day. You may use the short order of worship provided below. Use the material in the way that best fits you and your family.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

DEVOTION and REFLECTION

PRAYERS and THE LORD'S PRAYER

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

or

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Leader: The almighty and merciful God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.
All: Amen.

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Devotions and supporting material written by Pastor Ted Laesch and Mary Laesch.

Walking Together in the Word

May 27, 2021–June 1, 2024

This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, June 2.

Proper 4

The Gospel: Mark 2:23–28

23 One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. 24 The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”

25 He answered, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? 26 In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.”

27 Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. 28 So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

Devotion on the Gospel

School is out. Temperatures are heating up. People are outside walking and biking, mowing and grilling. Vacation plans are being made. It's time for rest and relaxation.

But sometimes it seems like the pursuit of rest is exhausting. You have to take advantage of every minute you have off from work. So you plan and work and work and plan, and that can be exhausting! Ever feel you needed a vacation to recover from your vacation?

This may happen because we tend to think that rest is all about us. The Bible tells us something different. *Jesus* is our Sabbath rest. He is the only one who can truly satisfy us and give us real rest. That is why Jesus said, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.” The Sabbath is resting in God's work for us. The Sabbath is worship. The Sabbath is knowing that our rest, true rest, is found only in Jesus Christ.

We hear this from Jesus Himself, as He says these wonderful words about resting in Him: “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Matthew 11:28-30).

Oh, that's a wonderful rest! It's a rest we don't have to work for or plan for. Jesus has already done it by His work on the cross and at the Easter grave. And the Lord of the Sabbath has given it to us.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

The Pharisees were focused on laws and requirements surrounding the Sabbath. How does Jesus cut through the traditions and man-made laws to reveal the real meaning of the Sabbath?

Look up the definition of the Hebrew word “Sabbath.” Why is this word so appropriate for describing what Jesus gives to us?

Before Jesus' death and resurrection, Saturday was the day set aside as the Sabbath, a day of worship and time to be with the Lord. After Jesus' resurrection, Christians began to celebrate Sunday as the day of worship and rest. Why do you think that is?

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

What does remembering God's deliverance of His people from slavery in Egypt have to do with observing the Sabbath?

(Look back at the devotion on the Gospel and Matthew 11:28-30.)

*Verse to Remember:
2 Corinthians 4:7*

It was common in New Testament times to hide treasure in clay jars, which didn't look valuable. How are we similar to clay jars? What hope and encouragement does this passage give to you?

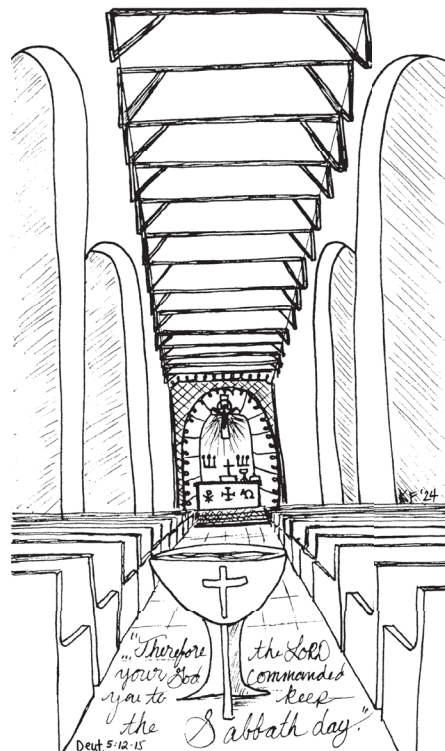
The Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 5:12-15

12 "Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the Lord your God has commanded you. 13 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 14 but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns, so that your male and female servants may rest, as you do. 15 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.

The Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

5 For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 10 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 11 For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. 12 So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.



The Psalm: Psalm 81:1-10

Sing for joy to God our strength;
shout aloud to the God of Jacob!
2 Begin the music, strike the timbrel,
play the melodious harp and lyre.

3 Sound the ram's horn at the New Moon,
and when the moon is full, on the day of our festival;
4 this is a decree for Israel,
an ordinance of the God of Jacob.
5 When God went out against Egypt,
he established it as a statute for Joseph.

I heard an unknown voice say:

6 "I removed the burden from their shoulders;
their hands were set free from the basket.
7 In your distress you called and I rescued you,
I answered you out of a thundercloud;
I tested you at the waters of Meribah.
8 Hear me, my people, and I will warn you—
if you would only listen to me, Israel!
9 You shall have no foreign god among you;
you shall not worship any god other than me.
10 I am the Lord your God,
who brought you up out of Egypt.
Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

This psalm is a call to the people to remember God's saving acts and to worship Him with thankfulness and praise.

What has God done for you? How can you show Him thanks and praise?

*Sing for joy to God our
strength;
shout aloud to the
God of Jacob!*

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

This hymn tells of some of the blessings we receive when we gather to hear God's Word.

What are some of the benefits of gathering for worship?

What does the Spirit do as we hear and speak God's Word?

The Hymn: Blessed Jesus, at Your Word *LSB 904*

Blessèd Jesus, at Your Word

We are gathered all to hear You.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
Now to seek and love and fear You,
By Your teachings, sweet and holy,
Drawn from earth to love You solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight
Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till Your Spirit breaks our night
With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;
You must work all good within us.

Gracious Savior, good and kind,
Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind;
Help us by Your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises;
Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord,
Praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word,
Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander,
Till we sing Your praises yonder.

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Faith + Life Connections

God commanded His people to set aside one day a week, the Sabbath day, to rest from working and to focus on God. Resting is good for our mind and body. Listening to God's Word is good for our heart and soul. The Pharisees had forgotten that God made the Sabbath for the good of His people. How does keeping the Sabbath help you?

Mark 2:23-28

Where have you heard the words of this passage before? (Look at all of Deuteronomy 5.) God wanted His people to remember all He had done for them. What has God done for you? How does your family keep the Sabbath?

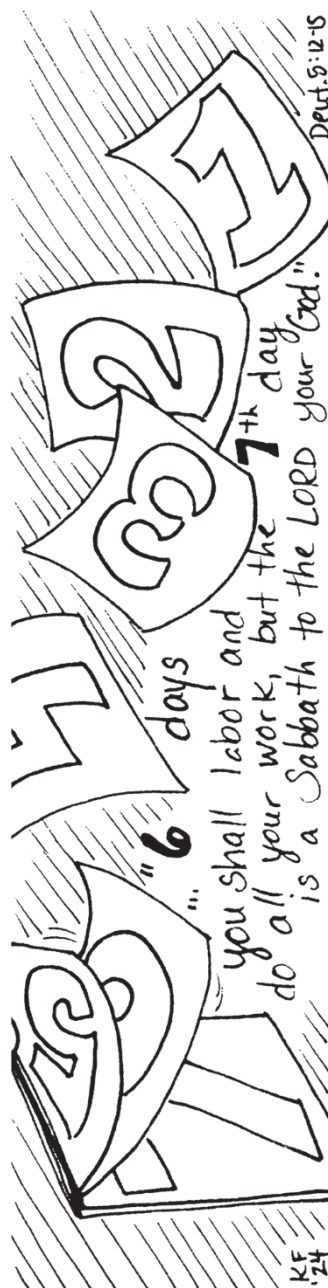
Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Read verses 5 & 6 again. Who is the light that shines in the darkness of the world? (See John 8:12). When you share Jesus' love, you shine His light. Sing "This Little Light of Mine."

2 Corinthians 4:5-12

Memorize:

We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.
2 Corinthians 4:7



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Devote Yourself to Prayer *Colossians 4:2*

Throughout the week, write prayers of praise, thanksgiving, and requests on slips of paper and place them in your prayer bowl. Take turns praying when you gather for devotions.

Walking Together in the Word

June 3–June 8, 2024

This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, June 9.

Proper 5

The Gospel: Mark 3:20–35

20 Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. 21 When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

22 And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons."

23 So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? 24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. 26 And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. 27 In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house. 28 Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, 29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin."

30 He said this because they were saying, "He has an impure spirit."

31 Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. 32 A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

33 "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

34 Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

Devotion on the Gospel

His family got very upset. They had heard about His healing a leper on a Sabbath day. They had heard about His eating with sinners. They had heard about His forgiving sins, as if He was God Himself. He was gathering crowds. He was causing a commotion. He was making a fuss.

And his family wasn't pleased. This was conduct unbecoming of a carpenter and of this pious Jewish family. Jesus is the firstborn son. He's got work to do. He's got responsibilities. He's not supposed to be wandering around and causing all this hubbub. So, they thought, he must be out of his mind. Mentally ill. Let's go bring him home and hopefully he'll snap out of it.

But He's not crazy. He's the Messiah. He's not out of His mind. He's the Holy One of God. "Who are my mother and my brothers?" Jesus asks. "Whoever does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother.

It's the family of faith! Those who believe and trust in Him are united together in a wonderful family. Those who believe in Him are His true family. And they are His forever.

And that means that you are part of that family. You are united with Him. You are saved from the devil and from sin and from death. And you are given a place in His house—living forever in the family of Christ.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

How did Jesus' family react to His popularity with the people and His absorption in His ministry to those in need?

What simple argument does Jesus use to explain why His actions make it clear that He opposes Satan?

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

How did Adam and Eve try to shift responsibility away from themselves?

How might we see ourselves in the actions of Adam and Eve and their interaction with the Lord?

What, according to Paul, are some of the ongoing effects on us of sin and conflict?

*Verse to Remember:
2 Corinthians 4:16*

Who is more powerful than sin and its consequences? And what kind of future do we as Christians have to look forward to?

The Old Testament Reading: Genesis 3:8-15

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

The Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:13 - 5:1

13 It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, 14 because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. 15 All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 5 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

The Psalm: Psalm 130

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;

2 Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.

3 If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could stand?

4 But with you there is forgiveness,
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

5 I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,
and in his word I put my hope.

6 I wait for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

7 Israel, put your hope in the Lord,
for with the Lord is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.

8 He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Psalm 130 is one of the seven "penitential" psalms we find in the Bible. This week take some time and read through the other six penitential psalms (6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 143).

When have you heard verses 3–4 before? (See Lutheran Service Book, p. 203) Why would we recite these verses at this point in the liturgy?

*I wait for the Lord, my
whole being waits,
and in his word I put
my hope.*

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

The hymn writer gives us many results of trusting in God and living in faith. Read or sing the hymn and write down the blessings of trusting in our Lord.

The Hymn: Who Trusts in God a Strong Abode *LSB 714*

Who trusts in God
A strong abode
In heav'n and earth possesses;
Who looks in love
To Christ above,
No fear that heart oppresses.
In You alone,
Dear Lord, we own
Sweet hope and consolation,
Our shield from foes,
Our balm for woes,
Our great and sure salvation.

Though Satan's wrath
Beset our path
And worldly scorn assail us,
While You are near,
We shall not fear;
Your strength will never fail us.
Your rod and staff
Will keep us safe
And guide our steps forever;
Nor shades of death
Nor hell beneath
Our lives from You will sever.

In all the strife
Of mortal life
Our feet will stand securely;
Temptation's hour
Will lose its pow'r,
For You will guard us surely.
O God, renew
With heav'nly dew
Our body, soul, and spirit
Until we stand
At Your right hand
Through Jesus' saving merit.

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Faith + Life Connections

Families are important. Our mom, dad, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, and grandparents love us, comfort us, and help us. Did you know you have another family? It's the family of God! All who believe in Jesus are part of God's family. This family also loves you and comforts you and helps you. Thank You, God, for family! *Mark 3:20-35*

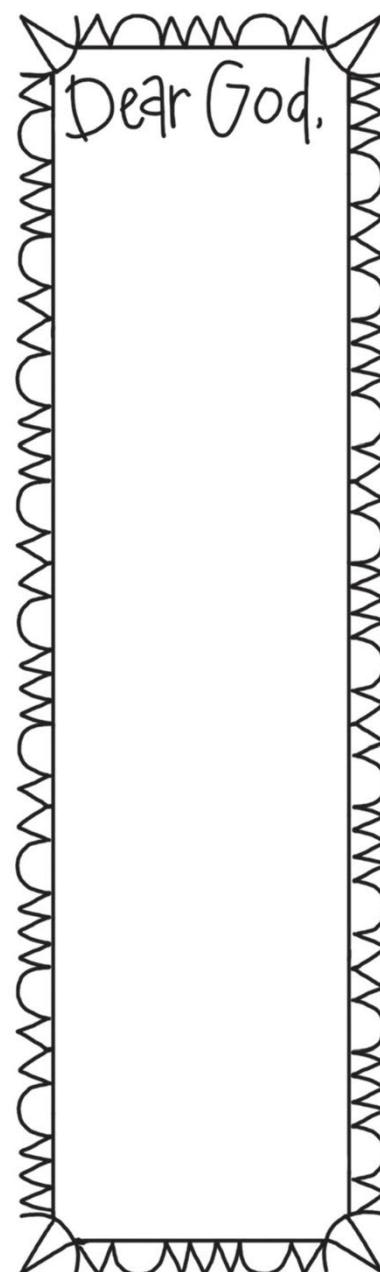
God showed His love for us by creating a wonderful, perfect world. Then Adam and Eve brought sin into God's world. Now there is pain and sadness. But God didn't turn His back on us. Because He loves us, He promised a Savior—Jesus! How great is God's love for

We all have pain and hurt at times because of sin. But there's good news—it won't last forever! Jesus promises us a perfect home in heaven. How wonderful that will be! *2 Corinthians 4:13 - 5:1*

Memorize:

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.
2 Corinthians 4:16

FOR IT IS **ALL**
for your sake,
 SO THAT AS
GRACE
extends
to
MORE & MORE
people
it may
INCREASE
thanksgiving,
to the
GLORY & God
2 Corinthians 4:15



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Devote Yourself to Prayer *Colossians 4:2*

Throughout the week, write prayers of praise, thanksgiving, and requests on slips of paper and place them in your prayer bowl. Take turns praying when you gather for devotions.

Walking Together in the Word

June 10–June 15, 2024

This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, June 16.

Proper 6

The Gospel: Mark 4:26–34

26 He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. 27 Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. 28 All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. 29 As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

30 Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. 32 Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

33 With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. 34 He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

Devotion on the Gospel

The Kingdom, Jesus says, is like a mustard seed. Now that’s interesting, isn’t it? Because the mustard seed isn’t just small—it’s tiny! And what would you expect would grow from a tiny seed? A tiny plant, right? Oh, but not so with the mustard seed. Small things can do big things, Jesus says. That mustard seed produces one of the largest of all plants.

That is what my Kingdom is like, Jesus says. It sure does have a humble “mustard seed” beginning. A baby born in a backwater town. A humble rabbi teaching and preaching. A group of twelve to follow and learn and believe. But then more and more come to follow and learn and believe. From twelve, to thousands, to hundreds of thousands, to millions. It’s amazing, the growth of the Kingdom.

God has a way of planting mustard seeds. He does that in each of us. For many of us, He quietly planted a little seed in us through the waters of Holy Baptism. And then He caused that seed to be nourished and watered and fed. And all the while the seed grows and gets bigger and bears fruit and maybe even plants other seeds.

The Kingdom of God will grow. We’ve got God’s promise that it will. It will grow until the Last Day, when we will join the multitude that St. John talks about in Revelation: a multitude that no one can count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language. We will stand before the throne of God and in front of Jesus, the Lamb, sharing our praise forever and ever. All because of a mustard seed of faith that God planted in us.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

The Parable of the Growing Seed is only found in the Gospel of Mark. While the Parable of the Sower talks about the importance of the soil for the growth of the seed, what does this parable emphasize?

What encouragement do Jesus’ parables give to us as His followers?

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

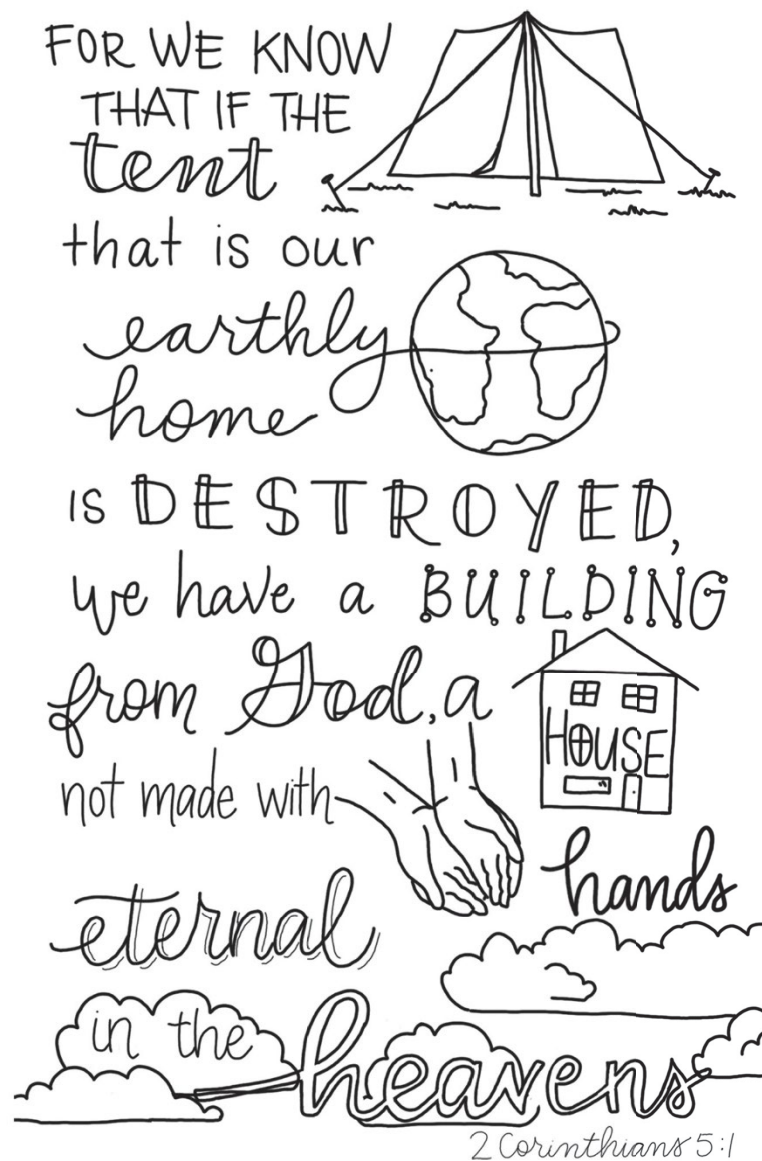
What is the impact of the Sovereign Lord saying, "I Myself will..."? What does this tell us about God's character?

From God's words through Ezekiel, who is the one who gives growth, feeds, nourishes, and builds the kingdom?

The Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

22 "This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. 23 On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it; they will find shelter in the shade of its branches. 24 All the trees of the forest will know that I the Lord bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall. I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish.

"I the Lord have spoken, and I will do it."



The Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

5 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. 2 Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, 3 because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. 4 For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. 6 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. 7 For we live by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

The Psalm: Psalm 1

Blessed is the one
 who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
 or sit in the company of mockers,
2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
 and who meditates on his law day and night.
3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
 which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
 whatever they do prospers.
4 Not so the wicked!
 They are like chaff
 that the wind blows away.
5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
 nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
6 For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

What is the “earthly tent” we live in?

*Verse to Remember:
2 Corinthians 5:7*

Why does Paul call it a “tent” instead of a “house” or “palace?”

What does the psalmist say makes a man or woman “blessed?”

Why does the Bible here and elsewhere compare people to trees or other plants when speaking of our spiritual growth (or lack thereof)?

Notes,
Thoughts,
Questions

*When the seed of
God's Word is cast
into our hearts, how
are we, by God's
grace, to respond?
What ought to be our
attitude when we
have the opportunity
to hear God's Word?*

The Hymn: Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast *LSB 577*

Almighty God, Your Word is cast
Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav'n descend
And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the sly satanic foe
This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev'ry heart
To bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world's deceitful cares
The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold
The fruits of peace and joy.

So when the precious seed is sown,
Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive
Its saving pow'r may know.

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*Now let
the dew
of heav'n
descend
And
righteous
fruits
abound*

Faith + Life Connections

Have you planted a seed and watched it grow? It's amazing! Jesus says that's how faith grows. Faith is planted when we hear about Jesus. The Spirit makes our love and trust in Him take root and grow. Then He helps us share His love with others so their faith can grow too. Plant a seed this week. Talk about how God grows our

Can you make a tree grow?
Can you make a flower open?
No, that's God's work! We can't make faith grow either. But we *can* listen to and share God's Word. God works through His Word to plant and grow faith. How will you share God's Word this week?
Ezekiel 17:22-24

God has given us awesome bodies that can do lots of things and a wonderful world to live in. But this isn't our final home or our forever body. One day we'll live in heaven, where everything is perfect and there is no sickness or sadness. Describe what you think heaven will be like. *2 Corinthians 5:1-10*

Memorize:
For we live by faith, not by sight.
2 Corinthians 5:7

So we are
ALWAYS
of good
COURAGE
...
for we
WALK
by FAITH
NOT by
SIGHT
2 Corinthians 5:6a-7

Dear God,

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Devote Yourself to Prayer *Colossians 4:2*
Throughout the week, write prayers of praise, thanksgiving, and requests on slips of paper and place them in your prayer bowl. Take turns praying when you gather for devotions.

Walking Together in the Word

June 17–June 22, 2024

This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, June 23.

Proper 7

The Gospel: Mark 4:35–41

35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." 36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

40 He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Devotion on the Gospel

There's nothing more irritating, I think, than when someone is sleeping when they ought to be awake. Most teachers (and preachers!) can tell you how irritating that is! Or when things need to be done around the house and everyone is pitching in, but there is one who's taking a nap. It's irritating! It's annoying!

Jesus and His disciples are on the boat on the Sea of Galilee when all of a sudden a storm strikes those men. It is a bad storm. So bad that the disciples fear for their lives. And amazingly, through it all, Jesus is sleeping.

Those disciples are more than irritated or annoyed, they are terrified, worried, helpless! So they run to Jesus: "Wake up! We're going to die! Don't you care!?"

Jesus has an answer to that question. He stands up and rebukes the storm: "Quiet! Be still!" Then Jesus turns to those disciples: "Why are you so afraid? Have you no faith?" Have you no faith in My presence in your life? Have you no faith in My power? Have you no faith in My love for you? Have you no faith that I care for you? Have you no faith in My ability to save you? Have you no faith?

Do you sometimes feel like one of those disciples in a storm-tossed boat yelling out that question to God: Don't you care?! He has an answer for you and me. So very often in His Word He promises His presence. So very often He promises His forgiveness. So very often He says, "You're mine. I love you. I will save you."

God says to us: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are Mine! When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you... I am the Lord your God, the Holy One, your Savior." (Isaiah 43:1-3)

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Several of the disciples were seasoned fishermen. Their fear shows that this was no ordinary storm. What does it say about the disciples that, in their fear, they turned Jesus?

After Jesus saved them, Mark says that a new fear struck the disciples. Why did the Lord's dramatic act in saving them make them so fearful?

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

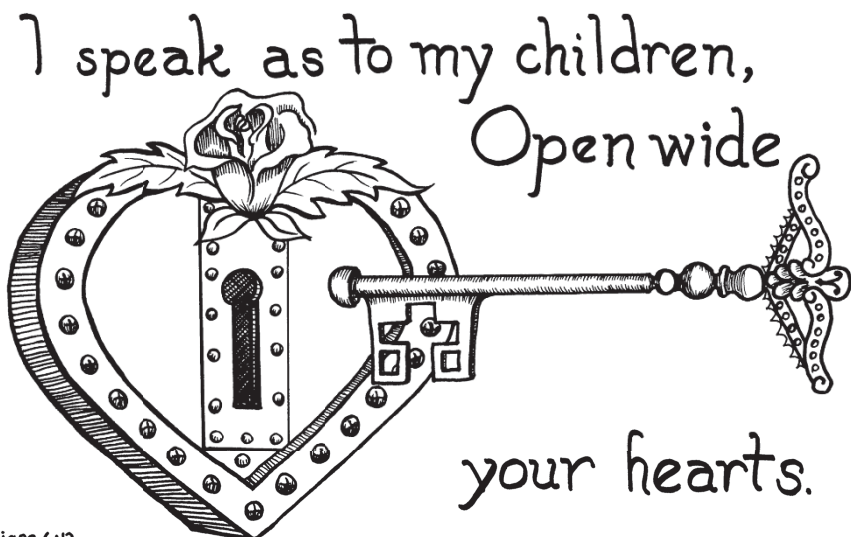
God asks Job a lot of questions, and Job has no answers. Why not?

What does God want Job to learn, think, or do differently as a result of this encounter?

The Old Testament Reading: Job 38:1-11

Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. He said:

- 2 "Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge?
- 3 Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.
- 4 "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand.
- 5 Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it?
- 6 On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—
- 7 while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?
- 8 "Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb,
- 9 when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness,
- 10 when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place,
- 11 when I said, 'This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt'?



2 Corinthians 6:13

K. Gilman '21

The Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. 2 For he says,

"In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you."

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

3 We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. 4 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; 5 in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; 6 in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; 7 in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; 8 through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; 9 known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; 10 sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

11 We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. 12 We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. 13 As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also.

The Psalm: Psalm 124

If the Lord had not been on our side—
let Israel say—

2 if the Lord had not been on our side
when people attacked us,

3 they would have swallowed us alive
when their anger flared against us;

4 the flood would have engulfed us,
the torrent would have swept over us,

5 the raging waters
would have swept us away.

6 Praise be to the Lord,
who has not let us be torn by their teeth.

7 We have escaped like a bird
from the fowler's snare;

the snare has been broken,
and we have escaped.

8 Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Write down the spiritual qualities that sustained Paul during his ministry.

How might these qualities sustain us as we face hardships and challenges?

This psalm celebrates the deliverance that God brings to His people. Note what the psalmist says would have happened if the Lord had not "been on our side."

What is the correct and blessed reaction of God's people to God's grace and deliverance? (see verses 6, 8)

*Verse to Remember:
Psalm 124:8*

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*How does this hymn
apply to what's
happening right now
in your life, in the life
of your community,
in the life of the
nation, and in the life
of the whole world?*

The Hymn: Be Still, My Soul *LSB 752*

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
 Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
 In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
 To guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
 All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart
 And all is darkened in this vale of tears;
Then you will better know His love, His heart,
 Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away.

Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
 When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
 Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessèd we shall meet at last.

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Faith + Life Connections

Think about a time you were afraid. Who did you go to for help? God gives people to comfort us when we are afraid. Jesus asked His disciples, "Why are so you afraid?" He wanted them to know they didn't need to fear. He was with them and He would help them. He promises to be with us and help us too!

Who formed the earth? Who made the stars? Who created the seas? God did! Job was hurting. Job had lots of questions. God reminded Job to trust in Him, because He is all-powerful, He is in control. What hurts and questions do you have? Take them to God in prayer. He will listen and help you. *Job 38:1-11*

Life was not easy for Paul as He shared the Gospel. But that didn't stop Him from talking about Jesus! What makes it hard for us to talk about Jesus? When we feel discouraged, God's love and grace encourages us!
2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Memorize:
Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. Psalm 124:8

As
Servants
of God

we
commend
ourselves

in
every way.



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Devote Yourself to Prayer *Colossians 4:2*

Throughout the week, write prayers of praise, thanksgiving, and requests on slips of paper and place them in your prayer bowl. Take turns praying when you gather for devotions.

Walking Together in the Word

June 24–June 29, 2024

This devotional material is based on Bible readings for Sunday, June 30. Proper 8

The Gospel: Mark 5:21–43

21 When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. 22 Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. 23 He pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” 24 So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him. 25 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. 26 She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. 27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” 29 Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. 30 At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?” 31 “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’ ” 32 But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. 33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. 34 He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.” 35 While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?” 36 Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.” 37 He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. 38 When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. 39 He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.” 40 But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. 41 He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum!” (which means “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). 42 Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. 43 He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Devotion on the Gospel

She wasn’t looking for a relationship with Jesus. She probably thought she wasn’t worthy of that, unclean as she was from her sickness. But she desperately wanted to be healed. She had suffered so long —so much physical pain and emotional pain and spiritual pain for twelve long years. So she came up from behind to touch his cloak, to receive the power of His healing.

“Who touched my clothes?” Those words must have been like a thunderbolt to that woman. And she came forward trembling. She wasn’t looking for a relationship with Jesus. She didn’t know Jesus. But Jesus knew her.

As she comes forward, Jesus’ heart goes out to her. When His child hurts, He hurts. When His child is burdened, He is burdened. His heart is broken for her and Jesus says to the woman, “Daughter. You are healed. Go in peace.”

To be able to call someone daughter means that you have a relationship with them. “Daughter.” Can you sense that love in that little word? Daughter: I care for you, I heal you. I love you.

He’s said it to you too, you know. “Daughter.” “Son.” He has made us His children. And because of Jesus, we are forgiven. Because of Jesus, we have life. Because of Jesus, we have hope that withstands any hardship, any illness, any worry, any sin, any shame. He comes to you and me and He says, “Daughter,” “Son,” I have made a relationship between us. I have made you my child. I have touched you with my love and forgiveness. Your sins are forgiven. Your worst sickness is healed. Go in peace.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

After the healing of Jairus’s daughter, why did Jesus give the disciples strict orders not to let anyone know about it?

What does it say to us that the Bible frequently talks about death as sleeping?

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Verse to Remember:
Lamentations 3:22–23

Why is it so helpful to know that the Lord's love and compassion are new every morning?

How is God described in Lamentations 3:22, 23, 25, 32? How do these verses provide hope and joy in the midst of despair?

The Old Testament Reading: Lamentations 3:22–33

22 Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.

23 They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

24 I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."

25 The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him,
to the one who seeks him;

26 it is good to wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

27 It is good for a man to bear the yoke
while he is young.

28 Let him sit alone in silence,
for the Lord has laid it on him.

29 Let him bury his face in the dust—
there may yet be hope.

30 Let him offer his cheek to one who would strike him,
and let him be filled with disgrace.

31 For no one is cast off
by the Lord forever.

32 Though he brings grief, he will show compassion,
so great is his unfailing love.

33 For he does not willingly bring affliction
or grief to anyone.



The Epistle: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-15

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. 5 And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. 6 So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. 7 But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. 8 I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. 13 Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. 14 At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, 15 as it is written: "The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little."

The Psalm: Psalm 30

I will exalt you, Lord,
for you lifted me out of the depths
and did not let my enemies gloat over me.
2 Lord my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me.
3 You, Lord, brought me up from the realm of the dead;
you spared me from going down to the pit.
4 Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people;
praise his holy name.
5 For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime;
weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.
6 When I felt secure, I said, "I will never be shaken."
7 Lord, when you favored me,
you made my royal mountain stand firm;
but when you hid your face, I was dismayed.
8 To you, Lord, I called;
to the Lord I cried for mercy:
9 "What is gained if I am silenced, if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you? Will it proclaim your faithfulness?
10 Hear, Lord, and be merciful to me;
Lord, be my help."
11 You turned my wailing into dancing;
you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
12 that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.
Lord my God, I will praise you forever.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Paul praises the Macedonian's sacrificial giving. Why must Christian giving always be voluntary to be joyful? How is Jesus our greatest example in this?

How can looking at the example of others encourage our good stewardship and generosity?

David announces his praise for God throughout this psalm. What reasons does David give for praising God?

Think of when God has turned your "wailing into dancing." What is our response to God for His undeserved grace? (see verse 12)

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

This hymn was originally written to be used at King's College Hospital in London. The words of this hymn focus on the healing and compassionate power of Jesus.

Take some time to pray the last stanza of this hymn.

The Hymn: Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old LSB 846

Your hand, O Lord, in days of old
Was strong to heal and save;
It triumphed over ills and death,
O'er darkness and the grave.
To You they came, the blind, the mute,
The palsied and the lame,
The lepers in their misery,
The sick with fevered frame.

Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health,
Gave speech and strength and sight;
And youth renewed and frenzy calmed
Revealed You, Lord of light.
And now, O Lord, be near to bless,
Almighty as before,
In crowded street, by beds of pain,
As by Gennes'ret's shore.

O be our great deliv'rer still,
The Lord of life and death;
Restore and quicken, soothe and bless,
With Your life-giving breath.
To hands that work and eyes that see
Give wisdom's healing pow'r
That whole and sick and weak and strong
May praise You evermore.

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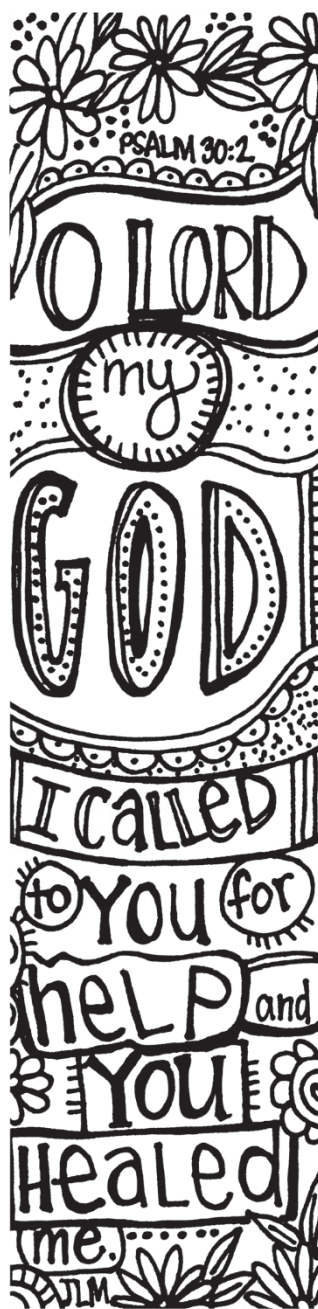
Faith + Life Connections

Healing seemed impossible. The man's daughter had died. The woman had been sick for twelve years. But with Jesus, nothing is impossible! Jesus healed the woman. He raised the little girl to life again. When things seem impossible, pray to Jesus. He will help you! *Mark 5:21-43*

Some days are just hard. Maybe you fought with your brother. Or your friend was mean to you. Or your grandma is sick. What do we do when life is hard? We trust in God. God never stops loving us, He never stops caring for us. When life is hard, trust in God. His love is new every morning!

It's fun to get gifts, but did you know that it's even better to give gifts to others? When we share food, clothes, and money with people who are in need, it brings them joy, it gives God joy, and it gives us joy too! *2 Corinthians 8:1-9,*

Memorize:
Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
Lamentations 2:22-23



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