

YOU MATTER

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Is There Hope?

THE  **ART**
OF WORSHIP

KIDS IN CHARGE

ASK IT!

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Monday, July 23, 2018 You Matter to God	5
Tuesday, July 24, 2018 You Matter to God	6
Wednesday, July 25, 2018 You Matter to God.....	7
Thursday, July 26, 2018 You Matter to God.....	8
Friday, July 27, 2018 You Matter to God.....	9
Saturday, July 28, 2018 You Matter to God	10
Monday, July 30, 2018 What’s Your Story	13
Tuesday, July 31, 2018 What’s Your Story	14
Wednesday, August 1, 2018 What’s Your Story.....	15
Thursday, August 2, 2018 What’s Your Story.....	16
Friday, August 3, 2018 What’s Your Story.....	17
Saturday, August 4, 2018 What’s Your Story	18
Monday, August 6, 2018 Is There Hope?	21
Tuesday, August 7, 2018 Is There Hope?	22
Wednesday, August 8, 2018 Is There Hope?.....	23
Thursday, August 9, 2018 Is There Hope?.....	24
Friday, August 10, 2018 Is There Hope?.....	25
Saturday, August 11, 2018 Is There Hope?	26
Monday, August 13, 2018 The HEART of Worship.....	29
Tuesday, August 14, 2018 The HEART of Worship.....	30
Wednesday, August 15, 2018 The HEART of Worship	31
Thursday, August 16, 2018 The HEART of Worship	32
Friday, August 17, 2018 The HEART of Worship	33
Saturday, August 18, 2018 The HEART of Worship.....	34

Monday, August 20, 2018 Kids in Charge.....	37
Tuesday, August 21, 2018 Kids in Charge.....	38
Wednesday, August 22, 2018 Kids in Charge	39
Thursday, August 23, 2018 Kids in Charge	40
Friday, August 24, 2018 Kids in Charge	41
Saturday, August 25, 2018 Kids in Charge.....	42
Monday, August 27, 2018 Ask It!	45
Tuesday, August 28, 2018 Ask It!	46
Wednesday, August 29, 2018 Ask It!.....	47
Thursday, August 30, 2018 Ask It!.....	48
Friday, August 31, 2018 Ask It!.....	49
Saturday, September 1, 2018 Ask It!.....	50

Introduction

As we look around our world and see current events, division, fighting and changes we never thought would take place, we have to wonder...

Is God still here? Does He care about me? Is He doing anything to change the world? These are valid questions! For many, these questions can become an obstacle to being able to see the miracles that God is doing in individual lives, families, children and churches. For others, it compels them to seek God out in a variety of ways.

You are invited to join us in our next series, “Summer Daze”, where we will find that God IS still doing miracles through His church by bringing hope to a broken and hurting world, in individual lives that have been restored and transformed through His healing power, and the miracles He is doing through our very own children!

We will also explore the nature and power of worship as well as the creativity of the many ways we worship Him.

And since there are so many questions we may still have, we invite you to “Ask It!” Our final message of the series will answer your questions. If you or your family and friends have hard questions about God, the Bible, the church or Christianity in general, you can submit your questions on our app, website or text phone.

We truly hope this series will encourage you!

Submit your questions for the “Ask It!” message weekend to:

Website: www.crossroads-ridgecrest.org

Text phone: (760) 301-4840

CCC App: Crossroads Ridgecrest app (see below)



To download the app, go to your app store and search “Crossroads Ridgecrest” and locate the *XRoads* icon you see to the left. The “Questions” tab will be on the bottom left once the app is installed.

Monday, July 23, 2018 | You Matter to God

Memory Verse: John 3:16-17

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

Today’s Reading: John 3:1-17

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: Who was Nicodemus and what answer was he looking for? Jesus says that for us to be saved we must be born again – not just in the human act of birth but spiritual birth. How did God make a way for us to have this? (see vs 16)

Question for Journaling: Verses 14-15 refer to an event in the Old Testament when Israel was wandering in the wilderness (see Numbers 21:5-9) and were complaining against God. In the same way God provided healing for the people by requiring them to look at the bronze serpent on the stake, Jesus would also provide healing for the lost by being “lifted up” on a stake. The point is we must look to Christ alone for salvation and healing. If you have been feeling lost, battling sin or looking for healing in your life – where have you been looking for help? This week, focus on looking to Christ for answers and healing through prayer and Bible reading.

Key Concept:
Spirit (pneumatós)
Spirit or wind

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 3:16-17

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

Today’s Reading: Luke 15:1-7; John 10:14-18

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What is the lesson Jesus is telling the people about the lost sheep? Who are the sheep and who is the Shepherd? Read John 10:14-18.

Question for Journaling: The amazing picture here is that God actively pursues us – looking for us when we are lost. Imagine being in a room of 100 people. How easy would it be for you to notice one missing? The fact that the Shepherd notices one sheep has gone astray is a BIG deal! How does this affect your thoughts of God?

Key Concept:

Why is God’s flock compared to sheep and not cattle, chickens, or horses?

Sheep are in need of leadership. Without it, they wander off and are injured or killed. Isaiah explains that we “all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way” (Isaiah 53:6).

Key shepherds in the Bible: Abraham, Moses, David

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 3:16-17

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

Today’s Reading: Luke 15:8-10

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In these verses, Jesus again uses a parable of someone looking for something. What is it? What happened when she found it? What is the parallel Jesus uses that applies to us?

Key Concept:
Coin

Drachma = 19 cents,
which was a day’s wages

Question for Journaling: Have you ever lost anything of value, either monetary or sentimental? To what lengths did you go to find it? If you found it, how did you feel? If you didn’t, how did you feel? Have you ever really thought of how sad God is over those who refuse to follow Him? People matter to God – YOU matter to God. He will NEVER stop pursuing those who are lost. How does this reality affect you?

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 3:16-17

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

Today’s Reading: Luke 15:11-32

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In this passage, who does the father represent? Who is the prodigal son? What was the father’s response to his son returning home?

Question for Journaling: For many of us, we have been the prodigal child. Has there been a time in your life you recognized God waiting for you to come/return to Him? Often guilt prevents us from coming to God, but in the last three days of reading, what was the response of the Angels, Shepherd and Father?

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 3:16-17

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

Today’s Reading: Luke 19:1-10

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What was Zacchaeus’ profession? How did the people refer to him? What did Jesus ask him to do?

Question for Journaling: Zacchaeus’ repentance was demonstrated in a powerful way. What was His response (see vs 8)? When we decide to follow Christ, it will be evident in our lives. What in your life has changed? Is it obvious to others?

Key Concept:
Salvation

deliverance,
preservation, safety

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Saturday, July 28, 2018 | You Matter to God

Memory Verse: John 3:16-17

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

Today’s Reading: John 8:1-11; Matt 5:17

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In this passage, this woman is caught in the act of adultery. According to Jewish law, this was punishable by death (see Lev 20:10, Deut 22:22-24). What does Jesus tell them to do? Jesus’ response to the woman was ground-breaking – what did He tell her?

Question for Journaling: Read Matt 5:17. Jesus was not going against the Law when He confronted the accusers. He was taking them to God’s original law of love (Matt 22:36-40). But He also told the woman to go and sin no more. God has done all He can do to show us how much He loves us – including giving His Son to die on the cross for our sins. How do you or have you responded?

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Monday, July 30, 2018 | What's Your Story

Memory Verse: John 9:25

"I don't know whether He is a sinner," the man replied. "But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!"

Today's Reading: John 4:5-30

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: Who was the woman Jesus was speaking to? What did He offer her? Why do you think this was an important event for her and the disciples? What was the outcome of this event? (vs 28-30)

Question for Journaling: In Christ, we see a Savior who breaks down barriers and offers hope to everyone regardless of gender, race, status or how much we've sinned (see Galatians 3:28). Have you ever felt there was a barrier keeping you from Jesus? How does this story help you understand the potential and power of your testimony (life story)?

Key Concept: *Samaritan*

In Biblical times, people of Samaria were half Jew and half Gentile (a Gentile is a person who is not a Jew). This would have made them impure in the eyes of religious Jews, and therefore unclean – not to be associated with in any way.



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Tuesday, July 31, 2018 | What's Your Story

Memory Verse: John 9:25

"I don't know whether He is a sinner," the man replied. "But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!"

Today's Reading: John 9:1-49

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: After this man was healed, the Pharisees questioned him about who healed him, and how he was healed. What did the man say about who healed him? What was his testimony, or story, about what took place?

Question for Journaling: Have you experienced God's healing in your life? It could be a relationship, addiction, physical or emotional healing, and especially a spiritual healing. How would you tell your story to someone who needs to know Christ?

Key Concept:

Healing on the Sabbath

In the Jewish culture it was against their law to do work on the Sabbath. This included healing the sick. Their laws took God's original commandment to keep the Sabbath day holy (day of rest in Exodus 20:8) and turned it into a legalistic law devoid of God's love for others. Jesus did not disobey His own Father's command but upheld it in the most holy way by showing love through healing.



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 9:25

"I don't know whether He is a sinner," the man replied. "But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!"

Today's Reading: Act 9:1-31

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: This passage describes the conversion of the apostle Paul. What was his role before he met Christ? Do you think Paul thought what he was doing was right? How did the Christians initially respond to him after he became a follower of Christ?

Question for Journaling: Sometimes we have done things in our lives that have caused deep hurt and damage to ourselves and others. When we make the commitment to follow Christ, we are forgiven but how easy is it for those we have hurt to believe we've changed? Rebuilding trust can take time – how does Paul's story give you encouragement to not give up?



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 9:25

"I don't know whether He is a sinner," the man replied. "But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!"

Today's Reading: Mark 5:1-20

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In this passage how did the demon possessed man approach Jesus? It is interesting to note the demons know exactly who Jesus is and bowed to Him (see James 2:19). What was the result of his healing? What was Jesus' response to him when he wanted to go with Jesus (vs 19-20)?

Question for Journaling: Many people have been radically transformed through the power of Christ. Sadly, many also don't tell anyone about it because of fear or the feeling of being boastful. What is keeping you from sharing your story? This week pray that God will help you see the opportunities He's giving you and make a plan to do it.



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 9:25

"I don't know whether He is a sinner," the man replied. "But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!"

Today's Reading: Mark 1:40-45

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What disease did the man in this story have? What did he ask Jesus to do? How did Jesus heal him? Who did Jesus tell the man to go see?

Question for Journaling:

Imagine how long it had been since this man had experienced human touch and compassion. There are still many people in society considered "lepers" –

isolated because of their circumstances. God wants to work through us to be part of His story – how can we show Jesus' compassion to those like this leper?

Key Concept:

Leprosy

Leprosy is a contagious disease that affects the skin, mucous membranes, and nerves, causing discoloration and lumps on the skin and, in severe cases, disfigurement and deformities.

Lepers were quarantined in colonies because of the contagious nature of the condition. For Jesus to touch this man would have made Him unclean according to Jewish law. According to Jewish law, a leper who was healed had to show himself to the priest in order to be declared clean and become part of society again. (Lev 5:3; 13:45-46; 14:1-32)



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 9:25

“I don’t know whether He is a sinner,” the man replied. “But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!”

Today’s Reading: Matthew 8:5-17

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What did the Roman centurion ask of Jesus? This says a lot about how the centurion felt about this servant. Something else he said says volumes about him; what did he tell Jesus? What was Jesus’ response?

Question for Journaling: This passage shows two amazing things – the power of Christ and how much faith plays a part of our story. Faith is active belief, not wishful hope (see Hebrews 11:1). For many, our story has taken place over many years and without big events – but it doesn’t diminish the power of God’s work in you. Whatever your journey has been, if you have truly committed your life to Christ, you are a huge part of God’s story. This week, thank God for what He has done and continues to do in your life. Remember, living in a Christ-like manner every day and in every situation IS YOUR STORY!



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Monday, August 6, 2018 | Is There Hope?

Memory Verse: Acts 2:46-47

They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Today's Reading: Acts 2:32-42

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: The events of this passage take place during Pentecost, 50 days after Jesus was resurrected. In verses 42-47 what was taking place? How did the people respond?

Question for Journaling: The book of Acts is the history of the Christian church and shows a thriving and growing church. God works through His church to make a difference in the world. How do you see that happening today? What would you change? What is your role in it?

Key Concepts:

Pentecost

"The fiftieth day", the second of the three great Jewish feasts, celebrated at Jerusalem yearly, the seventh week after the Passover, in grateful recognition of the completed harvest.

Christian

Read Acts 11:26 "follower of Christ".

Christos: Christ and "ian"
(related to or like) – Christlike

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Tuesday, August 7, 2018 | Is There Hope?

Memory Verse: Acts 2:46-47

They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Today's Reading: Ephesians 4:1-32; 1 Corinthians 12:4-10

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In his letter to the church in Ephesus, the apostle Paul gives the believers instructions. In vs 1-3 how are they to treat each other? In vs 11-12 Paul tells us God gave gifts – what are they? (See 1 Corinthians 12:4-10) From vs 17 on, Paul describes the “new man” – the Christian – how is the old and new man different from one another?

Key Concept:
Church (Ecclesia)

An assembly of people

Question for Journaling: God's plans to change the world happens one person at a time – YOU are part of that plan. Going through Ephesians, is there an area in your life that needs to change? Are you living as a “new man” (person) or “old”? Our individual life and how we live out Christianity is how God wants to change the world.

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Acts 2:46-47

They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Today's Reading: James 1:27 – 2:19

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: According to this scripture, what is the evidence of our faith? How are we to treat and care for others?

Question for Journaling: Bringing hope to the world often requires getting our hands dirty... stepping outside our comfort zone and carving out time to serve others. Is this easy or hard for you? Is there someone God has placed in your life He wants you to help? Is there a ministry you can become part of to strengthen Christ's church?

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Thursday, August 9, 2018 | Is There Hope?

Memory Verse: Acts 2:46-47

They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Today's Reading: Matt 9:9-13; Hosea 6:6

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: Who was Jesus eating with? Why did this bother the religious leaders? How do you think it impacted Matthew's friends to know Jesus was willing to spend time with them? Jesus was referencing Hosea 6:6, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice", exposing the Pharisees lack of mercy and compassion.

Question for Journaling: Do you spend time with people who are not believers for the purpose of introducing them to Christ? If not, invite someone to coffee or lunch this week!

Key Concept: *Pharisee*

Members of one of the most important and influential religious and political parties of Judaism in the time of Jesus; strict and zealous adherents to the laws of the Old Testament and to numerous additional traditions.

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Friday, August 10, 2018 | Is There Hope?

Memory Verse: Acts 2:46-47

They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Today's Reading: Luke 10:25-37

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In this parable, who showed kindness and compassion toward the man who had been robbed? Why is this important to note? Who is your neighbor?

Question for Journaling: At times, we have been the person who has been robbed and beaten (figuratively speaking), needing help. Did someone act as the Samaritan toward you? How did that impact you? In verse 37, Jesus encourages us to do the same (see Luke 6:31 and 36). How can you “pay it forward”?

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Acts 2:46-47

They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Today's Reading: Romans 14:1-14

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What is Paul instructing the people to not do? What is his encouragement? Although there was conflict over food and observance of certain days, was that really the problem? What should our attitude be?

Question for Journaling: One of the greatest challenges of today's church is that many Christians don't look any different than non-Christians. The encouragement toward mature Christians is awareness of how they influence people. If you consider yourself a mature Christian, is there an area of your life that could cause another to stumble? If you're not sure, spend some time and examine the areas of your life: media, TV & movies, music, language, food and drink... ask God if there is anything that needs to change.

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 4:23-24

But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

Today’s Reading: Psalms 150:1-6

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In this psalm, what are God’s people encouraged to do? How?

Question for Journaling: Worship is a heart matter dependent on relationship. There are a variety of ways in which we worship God – we will discover many of them in this week’s study. How do you connect with God in worship?

Key Concept:
Worship

To kiss the hand (towards) one, to fall to the knees and touch the ground with one’s forehead in profound reverence, to prostrate one’s self.



MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 4:23-24

But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

Today’s Reading: Exodus 31:1-11, 35:31-35

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In this passage, what skills did God give? For what purpose?

Question for Journaling: God gives us skills and talents to be used for His purposes (artists, builders, sewing, etc.). Is there a skill God has given you for the purpose of serving Him? Are you using it? If not, ask God what He wants you to do with this incredible gift He’s given you.



MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 4:23-24

But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

Today’s Reading: Nehemiah 12:27-43

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What was being celebrated? Two large groups of people were an integral part – what was their role? The wall surrounding Jerusalem had been destroyed and through the leadership of Nehemiah, God gave him and the builders the ability to rebuild the wall. This brought great joy to God’s people and began a season of revival.

Question for Journaling: Music plays a huge role for many people. We can remember songs from our past that are directly connected to people and circumstances and they can bring sorrow or joy. God created music as an expression of joy, love, grief, encouragement, etc. Is there a favorite hymn or Christian song that God has used in your life? Thank God for the beauty and power of music!

 **MY PRAYER...** 



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 4:23-24

But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

Today’s Reading: Romans 12:1-21

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: Verses 1 and 2 describe the way to worship God – what are they? The remainder of the chapter is a description of HOW to do this daily. List the practical ways in which we worship God.

Question for Journaling: Worship isn’t contained to the arts alone. Our very lives are an act of worship. When reading this chapter, what areas did God reveal that you need to work on? What areas are you doing well? Did this chapter give you more insight to what worship is?

 **MY PRAYER...** 



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 4:23-24



But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”


Today’s Reading: Genesis 1:1-26; Romans 1:20; Isaiah 45:18


I learned from my reading today...


Going Deeper: In the creation account, after each portion He created, how did God describe it? Read Isaiah 45:18. For what purpose did God create the earth?

Question for Journaling: Food for Thought – although man/woman were the last of God’s created beings, the verse in Isaiah says He created the earth to be lived in. Do you think it’s possible that God knew us first, then created a place for us to live (Psalm 139:13-17)? Many people worship in God’s creation – the beauty of the earth and sky, flowers and animals, the miracle of the human design... This week, take some time to thank God and worship Him in His creation – do something special like a drive to the mountains!

 **MY PRAYER...** 

 **Praise for:**

 **Request for:**

 **Forgiveness for:**

Memory Verse: John 4:23-24

But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

Today’s Reading: Psalms 22:1-31

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: Although this passage doesn’t seem to fit, the Psalmist is writing about the object of our worship...Jesus. King David was expressing his grief over constant attack from his enemies, BUT this psalm is actually prophecy of the crucifixion (compare vs 1 with Matt 27:46 and Ps 22:14-18 with Matt 27:35-43). <http://www.khouse.org/articles/1998/113/> (this link shows medically what happens to the body during crucifixion)

Question for Journaling: Worship is dependent on its object – having read Psalms 22 and knowing what Christ went through on our behalf, can we do anything other than bow before Him and worship Him with everything we are? Take some time now to worship Him.

 **MY PRAYER...** 



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Mark 10:14

When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children.

Today’s Reading: Mark 10:13-16

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: Why did Jesus get upset with His disciples? Jesus clearly loves and values children – what did He do? What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God like a child?

Question for Journaling: The beauty of children is their trusting nature. This is our encouragement – to trust God the way a child trusts his/her parents. However, as adults...not so easy! How can you build your child-like trust in God this week? If you have children, how do you teach them to trust God?

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Mark 10:14

When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children.

Today’s Reading: Matthew 18:1-11

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What is the warning Jesus gives in this passage? What would be better to do instead? Who always sees the Father’s face in heaven?

Question for Journaling: Purposely causing a child or believer in Christ to stumble comes with grave consequences. Most of us, at one time or another, have made mistakes with our children and others. Thank God we can ask Him for forgiveness and He is faithful to forgive! (See 1 John 1:9) If God has revealed something in your life that needs to be “cut off” or removed, ask forgiveness and commit to removing or changing it. *We are here to help – if you need assistance in this area, please contact us.*

Key Concept:
Millstone

Large heavy stone used for grinding grains, often weighing hundreds of pounds.

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Mark 10:14

When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children.

Today’s Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: According to these verses, what should our attitude be?

Question for Journaling: Humility should be a defining characteristic of Christians. Jesus demonstrated humility in the most sacrificial way – how does this affect you? How hard is it for you to humble yourself before God? Others? Children?

This week, look for ways to practice verse 3, treating others as more important than ourselves, with the sole motivation to love and please God.

Key Concept:

Humble

To lower one’s self, assign a lower rank or position.

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Mark 10:14

When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children.

Today’s Reading: 2 Timothy 3:12-17

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: These verses teach that the Bible is good for several things – what are they? Who inspired the scriptures?

Key Concept:
Inspired

Divinely breathed in,
given by inspiration of
God.

Question for Journaling: God graciously gave us the Bible as our instruction for life! It is useful for ALL situations we go through. One of the ways the Bible helps us is to teach us how to not be deceived by false teachings. The more familiar we are with God’s word, the easier it is to detect truth from error. Do you look to the Bible for answers? How has this specifically helped you?

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Mark 10:14

When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children.

Today’s Reading: Romans 15:1-13

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: According to verse 4, what were the scriptures written for? What does it give us? God raised up Jesus, the root of Jesse, that through the Jewish people hope of salvation would come to the entire world. (Isaiah 11:10)

Question for Journaling: Salvation through Christ was prophesied and written from the beginning (see Ephesians 1:3-9). God did this for us because it pleased Him to do so. How does this affect you? When children are adopted into a family, they are chosen and freely given access to all that their new parents have. Ephesians says we have access to every spiritual blessing when we follow Christ – how does this change or confirm your view of God’s love?

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Mark 10:14

When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children."

Today's Reading: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What is God's instruction to us? To whom are we to teach them? When?

Question for Journaling: God has given us everything we need to live and teach His ways. Often our teaching only comes on Sunday, but God tells us to teach His ways all the time. As parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc., there are numerous teachable moments every day that we can apply God's word to. Starting this week, notice how many situations can become a biblically teachable moment for us and our families. Look up the verses together and talk about how they apply.

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Colossians 2:2-3

I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Today's Reading: Colossians 2:1-8; 1 John 4:1

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: According to these verses in Colossians, where does the source of wisdom and knowledge come from? What is our caution in verse 8? Read 1 John 4:1. The Bible tells us to test everything against the truth of God's word.

Key Concept:

Test

To make a critical examination of something, to determine genuineness, put to the test, examine.

Question for Journaling: We live in the age of information, everything is at our fingertips. Where do you go for answers and advice? What do you do to confirm if it is correct?

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Tuesday, August 28, 2018 | Ask It!

Memory Verse: Colossians 2:2-3

I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Today's Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What does God reveal to His people? How? What is the challenge for the unbeliever?

Question for Journaling: Whether we have made a commitment to Christ or are still seeking, the genuine heart looking to hear from God WILL be given answers, knowledge and truth. What questions are you wrestling with? Have you brought them to God with a willingness to hear the truth? If you know someone who has questions about God or the Bible, please invite them to the "Ask It" message this weekend (September 2-3).

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Colossians 2:2-3

I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Today's Reading: John 18:28-40; John 19:1-37

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: These verses contain the conversation between Pilate and Jesus just before he was crucified. What was the accusation from the Jews? What is the question Pilate asked Jesus in John 18:38?

Question for Journaling: For many, the truth of who Jesus is comes in various forms. For some it comes through prophecy, others experience or evidence through science and nature, and yet others by faith. Reading through this passage, we discover the death and resurrection of Christ was fulfilled Old Testament prophecy (see Psalms 34:20, Zechariah 12:10, Psalms 22:15). What is the way in which you search for and understand God's truth?

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Colossians 2:2-3

I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Today's Reading: James 1:2-8

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What does God give generously? How are we to ask? What happens to those who consistently doubt God's wisdom?

Question for Journaling: We all have doubts in life – even when we ask God for wisdom. It is only when we doubt God's wisdom and go a different direction that we become unstable.

The only way to learn that God is trustworthy is to practice stepping out in faith and to act on what God gives us. What do you need wisdom for right now? Are you looking to scripture for answers? How can you step out in faith and act on it?

Key Concept:
Double-minded

Uncertain, divided in interest, wavering

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Colossians 2:2-3

I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Today's Reading: Luke 18:18-30

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What was the question the leader asked Jesus? What was Jesus' reply? How did the leader respond?

Question for Journaling: The issue in this account is not money but motive (see 1 Timothy 6:9-10). Wealth can be an obstacle, but so can many other things. Is there an obstacle in your life that keeps you from fully following God? Verse 27 encourages us to understand that we cannot save ourselves, only God can do that. If you have been asking what it takes to get to Heaven, ask God to reveal your motive and show you the way.

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Colossians 2:2-3

I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Today's Reading: Proverbs 3:1-35

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: There is great encouragement here – what are some of the blessings of following God? What does fear of the Lord give us?

Key Concept:
Fear

Reverence, to stand in awe of, honor, respect

Question for Journaling: What portion of this scripture gave you the greatest comfort? What portion answered a question you may have had? The book of proverbs is a treasure trove of practical instruction for life – make a personal challenge to read one chapter of Proverbs a day (you will be done in one month!) and note how much God reveals to you that you can make part of your daily life.

MY PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

