

POLITICALLY INCORRECT



CROSSROADS
COMMUNITY CHURCH

DAILY STUDY GUIDE

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER, 2018

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Introduction

Politically Correct... a phrase in our society that has become a way of life.

Merriam Webster defines it as: conforming to a belief that language and practices which could offend political sensibilities (as in matters of sex or race) should be eliminated.

As Christians our goal is not to be *politically* correct but *Biblically* correct – which automatically makes us Politically INcorrect!

You are invited to embark on an adventurous journey through the maze of current issues and discover what God says about some of the most important and controversial subjects we face.

Politically INcorrect will address these issues and more:

- The Government
- Free Speech
- Immigration
- Environmentalism
- Voting

This Study Guide is a tool to help uncover Biblical truths and God's heart in a topic that most people avoid and how to apply them as we enter into another voting season this November.

We pray this blesses and encourages you!

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Today's Reading: 2 Timothy 3:1-17

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In this chapter, how does the Apostle Paul describe the Last Days to Timothy? In verse 13, what type of people will flourish? In verse 12, who will suffer? What was Paul's instruction to Timothy?

Question for Journaling: You've probably noticed we live in a broken world that is exactly like Paul described. He also told Timothy we can trust those who have taught us – trust is a HUGE issue today. How can we know for sure that we can trust what we hear, read, and watch on the news or social media? Verses 16-17 tell us how the Bible can help us. Do you currently use the Bible for this reason? How can the Bible help us know who to trust?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Today's Reading: Romans 1:18-32

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: According to verses 18-20, how has God made Himself evident to people? Scripture says there is no excuse for not knowing God. What did people do instead?

Question for Journaling: The state of our world was not God's plan. Given free will and when we push and rebel hard enough, God will allow us to suffer the consequences. How do you see this happening in our current society? How can Christians help others understand what's happening? How can we show others God's plan is still at work (see 2 Peter 3:9)?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Today's Reading: Colossians 2:1-10

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What is Paul encouraging the church to rely on for wisdom and truth? If our life is not built on Christ, what are we susceptible to (see vs. 8)?

Question for Journaling: There are so many different philosophies presented to us in life... how do you choose which ones are correct? When we become Christians, we have a whole new truth from which to draw from – Christ. Many times this challenges us to reevaluate our belief system – how does this affect you? When you pray this week, ask God to reveal to you anything you have learned that isn't His truth.

My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Today's Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: Who and what did God choose to shame the "wise and powerful" of the world (vs. 27-28)? Why did He do that (vs. 29)?

Question for Journaling: The beginning of our reading today says the message of the Cross is foolish to those who are perishing. Christians are often seen as simple and unintelligent because we don't often have answers for people's questions. Have you ever had someone ask you a question about God or the Bible you couldn't answer? How did you handle it? It's okay to not know the answers... a simple invitation to find answers together can open doors to a wonderful conversation!

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Today's Reading: 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: Who does the Apostle Paul warn the church of? In verses 14-15, who does he describe?

Question for Journaling: It may be startling to think that Satan can work inside the church disguised as a Christian. Sadly, there are many false Christians in every church – how do you know who they may be? What is the test of knowing (see 2 Peter 2:1-3)? This is often the reason many people avoid the church.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Today's Reading: John 8:12-30

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In these verses, Jesus says that to know Him we know God (the Father). How did the Pharisees respond to Jesus? Why did they have a hard time with this (see vs. 15)?

Question for Journaling: The challenge in life is human standards... each person sets their own standard for every person/situation. Why is this a problem? Whose standard do you live by? Whose standard do you place on others? How can we strive for God's standard in everything? This may sound impossible if we think God's standard is perfection – God's standard is faithful obedience out of love for Him, not living a perfect life!

God's standard is faithful obedience out of love for Him, not living a perfect life.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.

Today's Reading: Romans 13:1-10

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: Who established our authority? Whose servants are they? When we rebel against authority, who are we really rebelling against?

Question for Journaling: When we look at many of our authority figures, it may be hard for us to accept they are there by God's choice. However, if we are Christian, how are we to respond to them (see Ephesians 5:5-8)? Even if it's hard to understand, God places authority for our safety and to bring about His plans (see Isaiah 55:8-9). How does this help you view and respond to authority?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.

Today's Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: How were the religious leaders trying to trap Jesus? What did Jesus tell them?

Question for Journaling: As Christians, part of our testimony to others is how we handle the laws of our government. Christian freedom is not a license to break any laws (see Matt 17:24-27). In fact, sometimes we have an opportunity to go above and beyond. How can we do that in our own lives?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.

Today's Reading: Matthew 10:1-42

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: Jesus gave the disciples specific instructions as He sent them out – what were they? What is the encouragement Jesus gives His followers in this passage (vs 28-32)?

Question for Journaling: Jesus was very truthful about the hardships of the Christian life and the sacrifices we must often make. Are you willing to do this to follow Him? Verses 35-36 are a reference to Micah 7:6 (see Micah 7:2-7). Often Christians are “muzzled” - unable to make a difference because we aren't allowed to speak to political issues. However, Matt 10:16 tells us how we can.

My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.

Today's Reading: Hebrews 11:1-40

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In all of the examples of people in this chapter, what is common about all of them?

Question for Journaling: What's important about faith is that it's active. It compels us to act on our faith because of the object of our faith – Jesus. Faith is belief that God is telling us the truth! How does this encourage you to follow God in spite of the challenges we face as Christians? How can we be active as Christians in a world that is increasingly intolerant of Christianity?

Key Concepts:

Faith

The conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ.

Persuasion

(i.e. credence)

Moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God).

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.

Today's Reading: 2 Timothy 4:1-8

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What does the Apostle Paul tell Timothy to do in verse 2? What will people reject?

Question for Journaling: Freedom of speech is a right we all enjoy. Preaching the Good News of Christ is the responsibility of all believers whether the time is "favorable" or not. How is your freedom to talk of God affected where you work or go to school? What are some ways you can tell others about Christ in these types of situations?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.

Today's Reading: Acts 4:1-19; Luke 19:36-40

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In the Acts passage, what were the leaders disturbed about? What did they do with Peter and John? What did they tell them to stop doing?

Question for Journaling: The world has been trying to quiet Christians for thousands of years. What encouragement can you take from this passage? Found in Luke 19:36-40 is the account of Jesus coming into Jerusalem just before He is crucified. His followers are praising Him saying: "Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!" The Pharisees wanted Jesus to make them stop – what was His response in verse 40? The truth of Christ cannot be silenced!

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:27

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Today's Reading: Genesis 2:1-25

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In the account of the creation of man, what did God say was not good for man (vs 18)? What did God do? How did He do it?

Question for Journaling: Although God brought all animals to Adam, he saw that none of them were a good companion. God could have just made the woman without this event, so why do you think God did this? We don't always know what is good for us... just as Adam needed to see that no created being was right for him except the woman. We need to rely on God's wisdom to teach us about His plan for the family. How does this challenge you in light of today's teaching on family and values?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:27

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Today's Reading: Ephesians 5:1-20

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What are Christians instructed to do in this passage? What are Christians instructed to avoid? In verse 1, who are we to imitate?

Question for Journaling: Christians are told to live *in* the world, but not be *of* the world. How difficult is that for you and your family? What can you do to protect your family from the influences of social media, bad friends and other negative and sinful sources? Is there something in your life that God is showing you He wants you to change or remove?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:27

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Today's Reading: Ephesians 5:21-33

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: According to these verses, who are we to submit to? How does this specifically look for husbands? Wives?

Question for Journaling: Day one's reading was in Genesis 2, and today's reading quotes it (Gen 2:24). The Apostle Paul says that the marriage relationship is a picture of the relationship of the church to Jesus Christ. That said, how is the church to submit to Christ? How does this change your view of the marriage relationship and other relationships? How does this change your view of submission?

Key Concept:

Submit

Hypotasso (Greek)

- 1) To arrange under, to subordinate
- 2) To subject, put in subjection
- 3) To subject one's self, obey

My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:27

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Today's Reading: Ephesians 6:1-4; Deuteronomy 6:5-9

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: How are children to respond to their parents? How are parents to treat their children? Whose instruction are we to follow? How often?

Question for Journaling: Giving our children everything they need to successfully navigate life is challenging, but God gives us His wisdom. According to Deuteronomy, what are we to teach our children? The single most important job parents have is teaching children to love and follow the Lord. How are you able to do that in your home? How can you teach your children to obey God when they leave the house?

Key Concept:
Discipline

The whole training and education of children; tutorage, education or training.

By implication, disciplinary correction: chastening, chastisement, instruction, nurture.

My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:27

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Today's Reading: Proverbs 22:1-29

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: King Solomon gives some very practical wisdom for families. What is the instruction for parents in verse 6? What are other areas of advice given in this passage?

Question for Journaling: God cares about the company we keep and it is dangerous for us to think we can't be influenced by others. What is the standard you use to choose friendships? If you have children, what is the standard you use to teach them? This week, choose a few of these verses and discuss them as a family.

My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:27

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Today's Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: According to these verses, what are our bodies made for? What is a sin against our own body? Who does our body belong to?

Question for Journaling: We live in a world that teaches our bodies are our own to do with what we want. The Bible tells us different - God cares about our body because He created it (see Psalm 139:13)! How does this passage change your view of how we treat our bodies? This week, ask God if there's anything you need to change about how you care for your body.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 4:3

For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.

Today's Reading: 2 Timothy 3:10-4:8

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In chapter 3, what is God's word, the Bible, useful for? What does it do for the person dedicated to it? In chapter 4, what will people not tolerate? What will they pursue instead?

Question for Journaling: When God's word is removed from schools it leaves a vacuum. Vacuums must be filled – the Bible says people will follow whatever sounds good to them. What do you see changing in today's classrooms – academically, socially, morally and spiritually?

My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 4:3

For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.

Today's Reading: Deuteronomy 11:1-32

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What is God's command to us in this passage for ourselves and our children? What did the children of Israel NOT see or experience that their parents did? What are some of the promises God gives for following Him?

Question for Journaling: As children, many of us had a very different experience at school than our kids do today. In many cases, schools put themselves in a position of authority of our children – determining what is right and wrong for them, but whose responsibility is it to pass along biblical values and standards to children who have never experienced them? How can we teach and encourage parents and children to live by God's commands in the face of opposition at school?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 4:3

For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.

Today's Reading: Jeremiah 32:33-41

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verses 33-35, what did the people do? What is God's promise?

Question for Journaling: Although schools are not literally sacrificing children, the practice of adopting worldly beliefs, practices and customs is an act of sacrificing children to pagan gods. How does this challenge your view of the information children (and us) are taught?

Key Concept:

Molech

Pagan god of the Ammonites and Phoenicians

The nation of Israel had adopted some of their practices such as sacrificing their children to Molech.

My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 4:3

For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.

Today's Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-32

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What is the proverb God wanted His people to stop using? According to this passage, who is responsible for their sin? What is the result? Who is responsible for living righteously? What is the result?

Question for Journaling: It's amazing to think that even in Ezekiel's time, children were trying to blame their problems on their parents! It can be the same today, but when we also add the influence of other kids at school, as well as the educational system, how hard is it to "decontaminate" our kids when they come home? How can we teach children that they are responsible for their choices regardless of what others say or do?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 4:3

For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.

Today's Reading: 1 Timothy 5:17-6:6

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: How are elders and those who preach and teach to be treated? How are slaves to treat their masters?

Question for Journaling: Muzzling describes what Christian teachers experience – they are no longer allowed to openly discuss God in the public classroom. There are many Christian teachers who do all they can to be godly examples – how can you support them? Even if a teacher is not a believer, how are Christian kids to act toward them?

Key Concept:

Muzzle

To close the mouth with a muzzle, to muzzle, to stop the mouth, make speechless, reduce to silence, to be kept in check

My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 4:3

For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.

Today's Reading: Matthew 5:13-16; Luke 6:27-31

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In Matthew, what is the way Christians are to impact their environment? In Luke, what are the ways Christians are to respond to persecution and hatred?

Question for Journaling: Luke 6:31 is what we know as "The Golden Rule". This used to be taught in schools, but today this rule masquerades as tolerance. How do you see tolerance blurring the lines in schools? How can the golden rule be lived the way God intended?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Romans 13:1

Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.

Today's Reading: Romans 13:1-14

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verse 6, what are we to do? Why? In this passage, what ONE law are we to fulfill that will fulfill all others?

Question for Journaling: As humans, we are all born with a sin nature – the propensity and desire to do wrong (see Romans 3:23). That said, it was necessary for God to establish a governing body to address sinful actions. How do you think that loving our neighbors helps us keep God's law as well as man's law?

Key Concept:
Governing Authority

The power of rule or government (the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed), a ruler, a human magistrate.

My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Romans 13:1

Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.

Today's Reading: Proverbs 8:1-36

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: Who is speaking in the first person in this chapter (vs 8)? According to verse 22, who created wisdom? When?

Question for Journaling: In 2 Chronicles 1:7-13, having been asked by God what he desired, King Solomon asked for one thing – the wisdom of God. In Proverbs 8, written by King Solomon, we see God's wisdom is the key in all things – especially the governing of people. Do you think our current government is seeking God's wisdom to govern this nation? Why or why not? How do you think our government would look if it was following God?

Key Concept:
Wisdom

Wisdom, skill (in war), wisdom (in administration), shrewdness, prudence (in religious affairs), wisdom (ethical and religious)

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Romans 13:1

Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.

Today's Reading: Psalms 67:1-7; 2 Chronicles 7:12-14

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: According to Psalms 67:4, who governs the nations? How should the nations respond? What do they hope God will do for them?

Question for Journaling: "God Bless America" – a phrase we are all familiar with and hope for. However, in Chronicles we see there are conditions on the blessing of a nation. What are they? Sadly, we mistakenly ask God to bless a broken and rebellious nation that rejects Him! Do you ever feel helpless to change this? How can God's people take action in the government to bring humility and repentance to this nation?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Romans 13:1

Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.

Today's Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verses 6-7, a Child is born; who is He and what is His role and titles?

Question for Journaling: Written between 739-681 BC, the book of Isaiah prophesies of the coming Messiah – Jesus Christ (fulfilled). The description given to this King is the kind we need today. Whether we realize it or not, Christ is ruling no matter what we see going on around us - His kingdom has no end! How can we live in this truth now? How can we encourage others who believe God has abandoned us?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Romans 13:1

Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.

Today's Reading: Exodus 18:13-26

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What was the role Moses was filling? What was his father-in-law's advice?

Question for Journaling: When you read this passage, do you recognize anything that resembles today's legal/court/political systems? How are they similar? How are they different?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Romans 13:1

Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.

Today's Reading: Deuteronomy 19:1-21

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What were the rules for someone unintentionally killing someone? Purposely killing someone? What was the purpose of such severe consequences?

Question for Journaling: In this passage, are there similarities to our current criminal laws? As a nation founded on Biblical principles, it should be no surprise that our laws come straight from the Bible. However, you may know people who aren't aware of this. How does this help you for future conversations with them? How does this affect your view of our current laws?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Matthew 22:37-39

Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

Today’s Reading: Matthew 19:16-30

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verse 16, what question was asked of Jesus? What was His answer? How did the man respond and what did he ultimately decide?

Question for Journaling: People sometimes think that “doing” certain things will earn them a place in heaven. What does Jesus really want us to do (see vs 29)? Love for God and others is the real issue...have you ever chosen to give up relationships or possessions to serve and follow God? How did it change you?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Matthew 22:37-39

Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

Today’s Reading: Leviticus 23:1-22

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: Verses 1-4 explain the remainder of the passage – what is this passage about? What are God’s instructions in verse 22 about harvesting crops?

Question for Journaling: From the beginning, God instructed His people to provide for the poor and foreigner. The celebration of the festivals in these verses were instituted by God as a reminder of His provision for His people and that with their blessing, they were to bless and help provide for others. How has God provided for you? Is there a way you can bless someone in need as a way of showing God’s love and thanking Him for providing?

Key Concept:

Gather

Laqat (Hebrew)

To pick up, gather, glean, gather up.

The concept of gleaning has roots in the practice of leaving edges and corners of a crop for the poor to gather for themselves.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Matthew 22:37-39

Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

Today’s Reading: 1 John 3:11-24

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: According to verse 16, how do we know real love? In verse 17, what shows that love is not in us? In verse 18, how do we demonstrate that God’s love is in us?

Question for Journaling: It can be hard to discern if the financial state of a person is a result of poor choices or circumstances beyond their control. This is important when exercising compassion toward those in need. How do you discern the truth when approached by someone asking for money or food? How do you show compassion toward them?

Part of Crossroads’ mission is helping those in need through a variety of resources. If you know someone who needs help, please let us know.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Matthew 22:37-39

Jesus replied, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

Today’s Reading: Deuteronomy 10:12-22

At this point in history God reminds His people that they were once foreigners in Egypt - so they understood what it was like to be in a strange land dependent on others. Although they were abused and oppressed, God wanted His people to show His love and goodness by treating foreigners with compassion.

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: According to these verses, what does God require of us? What does He do for foreigners that He asked the people to do? Why?

Question for Journaling: Our nation is a “melting pot” of nationalities and cultures. All of us have a family history of coming from other countries to find freedom and opportunity. Where did your family originally come from? Do you know their history? People are still pouring into the United States to achieve the same dream...how can we show them God’s love? How should Christians respond in the conflict and division surrounding immigration today?

Key Concept:
Foreigner

Sojourner, a temporary inhabitant, a newcomer lacking inherited rights, of foreigners in Israel, through conceded rights.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Matthew 22:37-39

Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

Today’s Reading: James 2:1-20

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What is James warning against? How are Christians to show their faith?

Question for Journaling: Most of us don’t think we would discriminate against anyone. However, we don’t often realize how much has taken root without us knowing until we come face to face with someone that “looks” a certain way. Have your beliefs about discrimination ever been challenged? Has it surprised you? If you have/had preconceived ideas of certain people, where did you learn it? How can you overcome this and encourage others who also wrestle with this?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Saturday, October 13, 2018 | Immigration

Memory Verse: Matthew 22:37-39

Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

Today’s Reading: Isaiah 58:1-14

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What is it that God doesn’t like? What kind of fast does He want from His people?

Question for Journaling: Going through the motions of Christianity is dangerous. We can “do” all the right things for all the wrong reasons. Again, we come across scripture that shows us that God want us to love Him and others. This week, evaluate your love for other people (employers, politicians, groups of people, family, etc.) using 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 as a standard. Ask God to reveal to you if there is an area in this subject He wants you to change.

Key Concept: *Fasting*

To abstain from food.

The practice of fasting was common in the Jewish culture and was done for different reasons. Often times, people would fast and pray when making big decisions or getting ready for a challenging ministry – but their point was to focus on God in a deep and abiding way. One certain reason for fasting was to humble one’s self and repent and mourn over sin. This was the fast God was addressing in Isaiah 58.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

Today's Reading: Genesis 1:1-31

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: When God created the earth and everything in it, what did He call it (vs 31)? Who did God put in charge of His creation?

Question for Journaling: There are varying opinions on environmentalism – however, no matter your opinion, God gave people the awesome responsibility of taking care of His creation. What is your view on this? Do you see yourself as a caretaker of earth? What is your personal responsibility in your own home and town?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

Today's Reading: Genesis 2:1-25

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: How did God water the Earth? How did God provide for man? Who named all the animals?

Question for Journaling: We see from the beginning the hand of a loving Father who cares for His creation. How do you see God caring and providing for you in your life?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

Today's Reading: Genesis 3:1-21

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: After God placed the man and woman in the Garden of Eden, who came on scene? What did he do? What was the result?

Question for Journaling: In the beginning, creation was perfect – but when sin entered through Adam and Eve's disobedience, everything changed – including nature. However, as a loving Father, God still provided...how did He provide for them even after their sin? There will always be consequences to bad choices – how do you see these consequences in nature today?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

Today's Reading: 2 Peter 3:1-13

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What is the judgment of earth in the last days? What is a day to the Lord? Why is He waiting to bring this judgment? What can we look forward to (vs 13)?

Question for Journaling: Even though all of creation is temporary, we need to be good stewards of the time we have. However, God's first concern is us – our salvation and relationship with Him. When we are in a right relationship with Him, we can better understand our role in His creation. How does this challenge some of the beliefs others may have about how Christians view this subject? How can being environmentally responsible be a good testimony to an unbeliever?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

Today's Reading: Proverbs 12:1-28

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verse 10, how do the godly treat their animals? How do the wicked treat them?

Question for Journaling: Just because God put man in a position of dominion over animals, it doesn't give us license to neglect or abuse them. How can Christians show God's love through the care of animals? How can we teach our children about God through the responsibility of having a pet?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

Today's Reading: Psalm 148 1:1-14

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What is all of creation instructed to do in this passage?

Question for Journaling: As you look around the world, what in nature causes you to praise God? Take some time this week to focus on creation - find a creative way to express your thanks to Him for the gift of creation! If you are married or have children, make this a family event.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Acts 4:19-20

But Peter and John replied, “Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than Him? We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.”

Today’s Reading: Romans 6:1-23

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: When a person becomes Christian, what are they no longer slave to? According to verses 12-13, what are Christians not to do? What are they to do instead?

Question for Journaling: It is sometimes hard to understand the concept of no longer having to sin. NOT willfully sinning is a choice and entirely possible. The challenge of many Christians today is living a divided life – part Christian and part non-Christian (holding on to sin and worldly practices we don’t want to stop). Is this an option as a Christian? Can we compromise with God (see Revelation 3:15-16)? This week, ask God to show you where you may have been compromising in your faith and commit to faithfully obeying Him.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Acts 4:19-20

But Peter and John replied, “Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than Him? We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.”

Today’s Reading: Proverbs 6:16-23

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What are the seven things the Lord hates?

Question for Journaling: A woman’s right to choose is a hot button topic that can divide people. Sadly, many Christians have not handled this topic well and are part of the problem. How can we lovingly encourage people to seek God’s truth when it comes to the sanctity of life? If you aren’t sure of where you should stand in this issue, ask God to reveal His truth to you (see Psalms 139:13-16).

Key Concept:
Murder

- 1) To kill a human being with premeditated malice.
- 2) To destroy; to put an end to.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Acts 4:19-20

But Peter and John replied, “Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than Him? We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.”

Today’s Reading: Galatians 5:1-23

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verse 13, how are Christians to use their freedom? What two forces are constantly fighting each other? What are some of the evidences of our sinful nature? What is the evidence of the spirit?

Question for Journaling: As Christians we are faced with the decision to obey God even when the law makes certain practices legal (ie: marijuana). What should your filter be when faced with these situations? How can you connect with God to hear His truth in all situations?

Key Concept:

Sorcery

*Pharmakia (Greek)-
Root of Pharmacy*

The use of magic, often involving drugs and the casting of spells upon people – ‘to practice magic, to cast spells upon, to engage in sorcery, magic, sorcery.’

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Acts 4:19-20

But Peter and John replied, “Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than Him? We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.”

Today’s Reading: Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:3-9

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: How does the Genesis passage define the first human relationship? In Matthew 19:6, what is the command regarding marriage?

Question for Journaling: God very clearly shows marriage to be between a man and a woman. Right now our world is redefining God’s plan for us. How are you challenged in this subject? If you are conflicted about this, spend time asking God to help you understand His ways. Pray for Christ’s church to respond with love and grace to anyone who opposes this truth.

My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Acts 4:19-20

But Peter and John replied, “Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than Him? We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.”

Today’s Reading: Proverbs 6:1-11; 22:7

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What is the instruction and caution regarding debt in these passages?

Question for Journaling: The subject of debt is important to God and our national debt is out of control. Our money belongs to God and how we handle it is a testimony to others. Knowing our money is the Lord’s, how does this change your view of how you handle your finances? If you have children, how can you teach them to be financially responsible?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Acts 4:19-20

But Peter and John replied, “Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than Him? We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.”

Today’s Reading: 1 Timothy 3:1-13

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What are the instructions to men who are in leadership? How are they to manage their homes?

Question for Journaling: Although today’s reading is about church leadership, God placed parents as the leaders and authority in the home. That authority is being challenged by many institutions – schools, government, medical community, mental health community, etc. The idea that parents must outsource to the “experts” leaves a void in the home. God gives parents everything they need to raise godly children – how are you able to do that in your family? What do you do to discern the information you are given when seeking wisdom in parenting? How can Christians protect the family from worldly practices?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Titus 2:11-12

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God,

Today's Reading: Titus 1:1-16

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What was the reason Titus was in Crete? What are the listed qualifications and characteristic of appointed leaders?

Question for Journaling: Although no one is perfect, and we all have a past, it is important to have qualifications for leadership. When you choose people to fill government roles, what is the filter or list of qualifications you use? How important is it to choose elected officials who follow God's word? How do you think this would change our nation?

Key Concepts:

Elder

Person of authority

Deacon/Bishop

Overseer

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Titus 2:11-12

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God,

Today's Reading: Titus 2:1-15

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In chapter 2, we see further instructions for teaching and leading. What are they? In verse 12, how are we to live in this world?

Question for Journaling: Elected officials don't simply represent the wishes of the people, they teach people by example of what they stand for. The long term consequences of our votes will determine our children's and grandchildren's future. Does that truth play a role in your decisions? What kind of nation do you want to see the future generations live in?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Titus 2:11-12

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God,

Today's Reading: Titus 3:1-11

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In the first few verses, what are believers to do? In verse 9, what are believers to avoid?

Question for Journaling: People often say politics divides...the truth is – it's not the politics but the pride of people that divides. It's pride that causes fights and division (see James 4:1-3). It may be fun to debate with others, but we must draw the line at arguing offensively. How can Christians demonstrate godly discussions regarding political issues? When you talk about ballot choices with others, how do you avoid arguing in a way that is offensive?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Titus 2:11-12

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God,

Today's Reading: John 15:1-27

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: According to these verses, what can we not do apart from Christ? In verse 15, what does Jesus call His followers? Why? What does Jesus also say about how the world will treat believers?

Question for Journaling: As believers we are God's ambassadors in the world which means we must represent Him at the polls. However, this will make us very unpopular. Are you willing to make that kind of sacrifice? How easy is it to "go with the flow" and vote on issues based on the desire to be relevant?

My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Titus 2:11-12

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God,

Today's Reading: Deuteronomy 28:15-48

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: This passage contains dire warnings for disobeying the Lord. What are some of the consequences of disobedience?

Question for Journaling: As you read this, did you recognize anything that is a current problem today? The more people compromise and reject God's ways, the more we experience these curses personally and as a nation. How does this encourage or challenge you to do the research about what you will be voting on this month? Do you ever feel defeated in the ability to make a difference? Take heart in knowing that no matter the outcome, it pleases God when we obey and are faithful to Him!

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Titus 2:11-12

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God,

Today's Reading: Deuteronomy 28:1-14

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What are some of the blessings for obeying God's commands?

Question for Journaling: Early in Israel's history they enjoyed these blessings. All too quickly they were enticed by the customs and gods of other nations and chose to follow them. The United States also enjoyed these blessings early in her history, but sadly we have followed in Israel's footsteps. How do you think things would change if EVERY believer lived by God's word faithfully? We often think "I am only one person, what can I do?" but as each of us do what is right, God will heal our land. What one thing can you do to follow God more faithfully? How can you encourage your friends and family to do the same?

My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 15:13

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Today's Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What is the battle we fight? What does God give us to fight in this battle? In verse 18, what are we to do at all times?

Question for Journaling: Our service men and women put their lives on the line for us every day (John 15:13)! Although they do fight flesh and blood, it is the powers of darkness that motivate the evil our military protects us from. As instructed in verse 18, pray for our military personnel and thank a veteran for their sacrifice.

My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 15:13

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Today's Reading: Joshua 1:1-18

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What did God command Joshua to do? What was God's encouragement in verse 9? What did He promise to give them in verse 13?

Question for Journaling: War always has casualties – physical, emotional, relational and spiritual. However, we can help encourage those who have served our nation with the love of God. How can you show God's love to Veterans and serve them?

**If you would like more information how to help veterans, please call the church office at 760-384-3333 or contact us at www.crossroads-ridgecrest.org or on our church app.*

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 15:13

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Today's Reading: Isaiah 40:12-31

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: According to these verses, what do we learn about the nature of God? Is there any other like Him? What is the encouragement we have in verse 31?

Question for Journaling: It is important to remember that those who serve our country also serve the Lord. God is fully aware of all they go through and He wants to give them strength. Not only are servicemen and women affected, but their families are as well. How can we be an encouragement to our military families? How can we help them to trust in the Lord?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 15:13

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Today's Reading: Psalms 27:1-14

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: How does King David focus his thoughts in the face of fear?

Question for Journaling: King David was God's warrior and he had many enemies. Many of his Psalms are filled with emotion – fear, anxiety and depression. But he also always praised God for His goodness in spite of what he was going through. Our Veterans also often suffer emotionally – sometimes just knowing we support them can help but helping them know that God never abandoned them is more important. Do you know a Veteran you can invite to church?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 15:13

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Today's Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: How are we to treat one another? What is the attitude we should have?

Question for Journaling: Our Savior, Jesus Christ, understands suffering – and suffered to the point of death on a cross. He did this for us! Knowing that Jesus understands our weaknesses and troubles (see Hebrews 4:15) should bring comfort that we are not alone. God went to battle on our behalf and conquered death! This week, ask God to put someone in your path that you can share this with.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 15:13

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Today's Reading: 1 Samuel 17:1-54; Ephesians 3:20

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What people were fighting against the armies of King Saul? Who did they send to fight against Israel's troops? Who ultimately stood against the Philistine champion? In verse 37, who does David say will be with him?

Question for Journaling: Imagine a teenager taking out a soldier that stood well over seven feet tall with a slingshot – only God can do that! God has always been with Israel when they went to battle for the purpose of showing the world who He is and that He is the one true God. Have you ever felt outnumbered or insignificant in the middle of a situation? Do you ever decide in advance how a situation will go based on physical stature (see 1 Samuel 16:7)? How does David's story encourage you? Read Ephesians 3:20 and thank God that He can accomplish more through you than you can even think or ask!

God can accomplish more through you than you can even think or ask!

My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for: