

# DAILY STUDY GUIDE

NOV-DEC 2018

# TRUE STORY

CROSSROADS  
COMMUNITY CHURCH





# Table of Contents

Introduction .....	5
Monday, November 12, 2018   True Story.....	6
Tuesday, November 13, 2018   True Story.....	7
Wednesday, November 14, 2018   True Story .....	8
Thursday, November 15, 2018   True Story .....	9
Friday, November 16, 2018   True Story .....	10
Saturday, November 17, 2018   True Story.....	11
Monday, November 19, 2018   Thankful.....	12
Tuesday, November 20, 2018   Thankful.....	13
Wednesday, November 21, 2018   Thankful.....	14
Thursday, November 22, 2018   Thankful .....	15
Friday, November 23, 2018   Thankful .....	16
Saturday, November 24, 2018   Thankful.....	17
Monday, November 26, 2018   Sin is Real.....	18
Tuesday, November 27, 2018   Sin is Real.....	19
Wednesday, November 28, 2018   Sin is Real.....	20
Thursday, November 29, 2018   Sin is Real .....	21
Friday, November 30, 2018   Sin is Real .....	22
Saturday, December 1, 2018   Sin is Real.....	23
Monday, December 3, 2018   We Need Help.....	24
Tuesday, December 4, 2018   We Need Help.....	25
Wednesday, December 5, 2018   We Need Help.....	26
Thursday, December 6, 2018   We Need Help .....	27
Friday, December 7, 2018   We Need Help.....	28

Saturday, December 8, 2018   We Need Help.....	29
Monday, December 10, 2018   There is Hope.....	30
Tuesday, December 11, 2018   There is Hope.....	31
Wednesday, December 12, 2018   There is Hope.....	32
Thursday, December 13, 2018   There is Hope.....	33
Friday, December 14, 2018   There is Hope.....	34
Saturday, December 15, 2018   There is Hope.....	35
Monday, December 17, 2018   We Can Change.....	36
Tuesday, December 18, 2018   We Can Change.....	37
Wednesday, December 19, 2018   We Can Change.....	38
Thursday, December 20, 2018   We Can Change.....	39
Friday, December 21, 2018   We Can Change.....	40
Saturday, December 22, 2018   We Can Change.....	41
Monday, December 24, 2018   Christmas.....	42
Tuesday, December 25, 2018   Christmas.....	43
Wednesday, December 26, 2018   God Has a Plan.....	44
Thursday, December 27, 2018   God Has a Plan.....	45
Friday, December 28, 2018   God Has a Plan.....	46
Saturday, December 29, 2018   God Has a Plan.....	47

## Introduction

We all have a story... Where we come from, our experiences, hopes, dreams and plans for the future.

God has a story too – one that includes each of us. WE are part of His story – His plans for us and our future.

Join us for True Story and discover where we come from spiritually, how our experiences shape us, and God's plan to redeem us and the world to give us a future of hope!

Starting November 18<sup>th</sup>, we will explore the evidence of God, the reality of sin, the hope we have and God's plan through His Son Jesus Christ as we celebrate Christmas together.

**Memory Verse:** Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.

**Today’s Reading:** Romans 1:1-17

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In verses 1-5, what facts do you see that show God’s plan of salvation? Who is it for? For what purpose?

**Question for Journaling:** In today’s world it is hard to believe anything we hear, read or see. So much is distorted. How does this challenge your faith or the faith of people you know? Do you believe the Bible is the inerrant word of God? If so, why? If not, why not? This week as you pray, ask God to reveal to you facts about Him, Jesus and the Bible you may not have known before.

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.

**Today’s Reading:** 1 John 1:1-10

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** This letter was written by the apostle John who also wrote the gospel of John. John presents his testimony that Jesus was real – how does he do this? Why do you think John needed to tell the people this?

**Question for Journaling:** “I’ll believe that when I see it.” How often have you said this or heard others say it? We always want proof or evidence to believe something... you are not alone! Even in John’s day, when this letter was written, approximately 90 years after Christ was crucified, doubt was an issue. Do you believe Jesus was real? Why or why not? What is your evidence? Being able to clearly communicate the basis of our faith is important (see 1 Peter 3:15). How can you do this?

**Key Concept:**  
*Testify*

To bear witness, to affirm that one has seen or heard or experienced something.

*My PRAYER...*



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.

**Today’s Reading:** Matthew 26:21; Mark 14:18; Luke 22:21; John 13:21; Matthew 27:5; Acts 1:18

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** As you read through the four accounts of Jesus’ betrayal, what were the similarities? What were the differences? What did you notice about the recorded event of Judas’ death?

**Question for Journaling:** Many people believe the Bible is full of contradictions. Have you ever wondered about this? It is well known that eye witnesses to an event will have numerous consistent observations and a few differences. Why do you think that is? These small differences do not indicate errors or unreliability – in fact, to be exactly the same in all points would indicate deceptive collaboration. For the amazing answer about Judas, go to: <https://answersingenesis.org/contradictions-in-the-bible/how-did-judas-die/>

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.

**Today’s Reading:** 2 Peter 2:1-22

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** Who is Peter warning us against? How does he describe them? Do you see this happening in our world?

**Question for Journaling:** The deception of false teachers doesn’t only happen outside of the church but inside as well. Over the years many Christians and Christian teachers have strayed from God’s truth (often so slightly) that it’s not always easily noticeable. How can you protect yourself, friends and family from deception?

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.

**Today’s Reading:** Acts 9:1-22

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** What does this passage document? What was Paul like before he met Christ? What happened to him? What was the result?

**Question for Journaling:** Sometimes the evidence that Christ is real is a radically changed life. Have you ever witnessed a person change this way? How did it affect you? Evidence can also be found in healed marriages, families or even physically. However, those around us may doubt that is it from God – how can we encourage them to see that it is God at work?

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.

**Today’s Reading:** 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; John 6:44-45

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** Who does the Apostle Paul say helps us understand the things of God? What prevents people from understanding? According to the verses in John, how are we drawn to Christ?

**Question for Journaling:** God never stops revealing Himself to people in an effort to draw them to Him. The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity that helps us understand the Bible and the mysteries of God as we pursue Him and grow spiritually. If you are a Christian, think of how you were drawn to Christ. How did the Holy Spirit help you understand and learn about God? If you struggle to understand, ask God to show you if there is something in your life that is preventing it.

**My PRAYER...**



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

## Monday, November 19, 2018 | Thankful

**Memory Verse:** Psalms 136:1

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.

**Today's Reading:** 1 Chronicles 29:10-20

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In this passage, how does King David acknowledge God? In verse 16, what is he getting ready to do?

**Question for Journaling:** At this time, David had gathered from the people the resources needed to build the temple. However, God had already told him that his son Solomon would actually be the one to build it. David was thanking God for his part in God's plan. No matter what your role, you are part of God's plan and no role is too small or insignificant! Do you recognize how and where He is using you for His purposes? How can you thank Him?

### My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Psalms 136:1

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.

**Today's Reading:** Philippians 4:4-9; James 1:2-4

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** What is Paul's encouragement and instruction in this passage? What are we to fix our thoughts on? What will be the result (vs. 7)?

**Question for Journaling:** How hard it can be to be thankful when life gets tough! One of the things that sets Christians apart is the ability to show joy and peace in the face of trials – and be thankful for them (see James 1:2-4)! What trial can you be thankful for, knowing that God is maturing you? If this is a new truth, this week begin practicing the steps in Philippians and thank God for it.

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

## Wednesday, November 21, 2018 | Thankful

**Memory Verse:** Psalms 136:1

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.

**Today's Reading:** John 10:1-18

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In this parable, who is the door? What is His purpose? In verse 10, why does Jesus say He came?

**Question for Journaling:** A parable is a parallel story, a way of helping people understand a message or truth. Many of the people Jesus was talking to were shepherds and very familiar with the danger of wolves to the flock.

The shepherd would give his life for his flock – and that what The Shepherd has done for us! That is something to be thankful for... take time today to meditate on this truth. If you have committed to following Christ, thank Him for saving you. If you have not yet made that decision, thank Him that He has given His life so that you CAN choose Him.

**Key Concept:**  
*Wolf*

Metaphor of cruel,  
greedy, destructive men

### My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Psalms 136:1

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.

**Today's Reading:** Romans 3:21-31; 2 Peter 3:8-9

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** According to the verses in Romans, how are we made right with God? What do vs. 25-26 tell us about God's character? In 2 Peter 3:8-9, how would you describe God?

**Question for Journaling:** It is great news that we don't have to DO anything to be made right with God. Is there anything you have been DOING to work off sin or earn salvation on your own? Even for mature believers, we can slip into a routine of "doing" without realizing it. Take some time to examine if this is happening in your life. If so, thank God you are saved by grace through faith and not by works (Ephesians 2:8-9).

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

## Friday, November 23, 2018 | Thankful

**Memory Verse:** Psalms 136:1

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.

**Today's Reading:** James 2:14-26

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In verse 17, what should faith produce? In verse 19, how can belief in God not be enough? Who did James use as an example of faith producing good deeds? (See Genesis 22:1-14, Hebrews 11:8-19 and Joshua 2:1-14)

**Question for Journaling:** "Actions speak louder than words" – a phrase we are very familiar with and know the truth of. Yesterday's reading taught about how we are saved by faith; however, faith should produce in us a desire to act on it through serving God and others – it is a practical demonstration of love and thankfulness to God. How do you show your faith and thankfulness through actions and service?

### My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

## Saturday, November 24, 2018 | Thankful

**Memory Verse:** Psalms 136:1

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.

**Today's Reading:** Matthew 6:19-34

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** What does Jesus teach us not to focus on or worry about? How does God see us?

**Question for Journaling:** Are you a worry wart? So many are focused on temporary and material things that our ability to be thankful is squashed. God is our provider. Things may not always come to us the way we want, but God can only do what is best for us. If you have let the cares of this world, bills, work, school, relationships or anything else squash your gratefulness to God, begin today by writing down all that God has provided for you and thank Him!

### My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Romans 3:23

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

**Today's Reading:** Ephesians 2:1-16

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In verses 1 and 12, how are those separated from Christ described? What did God do for us?

**Question for Journaling:** Dead and hopeless is not a goal we strive for. However, that describes life without God. Sin is a very real and present danger that literally separates us from God. Jesus came to reconcile us to God, but we must choose to reconcile – meaning, we must decide to follow Christ with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Do you believe this to be true? How does this challenge or strengthen you?

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Romans 3:23

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

**Today's Reading:** Galatians 5:13-26

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** According to verse 17, what does our sinful nature crave? In verses 19-21, what are the results? What forces are constantly fighting each other?

**Question for Journaling:** Do you ever feel like you are fighting an uphill battle? Now you know why! Every person is born with a sin nature that apart from God we naturally follow. Do you recognize evidence of the flesh nature in your life? A life committed to Christ frees us from the slavery of sin and gives us the power of God's Holy Spirit to endure and fight the battle of the flesh. If you haven't made that decision, don't put it off. If we are Christian but are struggling in this area, ask God's forgiveness and take steps to avoid temptation (see 1 John 1:9 and 1 Corinthians 10:13). *We are here to help – if you need help, please call the office for an appointment (760-384-3333).*

**Key Concept:**  
*Flesh*

The flesh denotes mere human nature: the earthly nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God.

**My PRAYER...**



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Romans 3:23

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.

**Today’s Reading:** Galatians 6:1-10

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In this passage, what are Christians instructed to do? What is the caution? What do we harvest?

**Question for Journaling:** “It’s none of your business...” How many times have we heard that? Even in churches, getting involved in people’s lives can be perceived as being “nosey”, but God tells us we are supposed to get involved – especially if we see another Christian hurting themselves or others because of sin. Have you ever needed help to overcome a sin in your life? Who did you turn to? Would you be comfortable turning to another Christian? Why or why not? It is important to know who we can trust – take time now to think of a person you can talk to who would give you godly advice (see Psalm 1:1-3).

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Romans 3:23

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

**Today's Reading:** Romans 8:5-17

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In verse 10, how is the person "in Christ" described? In verse 13, what are we to put to death?

**Question for Journaling:** Putting to death our flesh desires – the picture is to "kill" that which separates us from God. This is a powerful statement, not literally to kill, but to purposely deny ourselves the sinful pleasures out of deep abiding love for God (see Galatians 5:24 and Luke 9:23-24). Do you love God enough to deny sinful actions/thoughts in your life? Successfully doing this also requires making a plan – what will you do the next time you are tempted?

**Key Concept:**

***Death***

*(Greek: Thanatoo)*

To put to death; a metaphor referring to make to die (destroy, render, extinct). By death, to be liberated from the bond of anything; literally to be made dead in relation to (something).

**My PRAYER...**



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Romans 3:23

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

**Today's Reading:** Matthew 5:17-48

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** What are the situations that Jesus addresses? Are these still applicable to today? How does Jesus tell us to respond in these circumstances? Is it the way the world teaches?

**Question for Journaling:** Isn't it incredible that the very same problems we face today were present during Jesus' time? The problems are the same AND His solutions are the same today as they were then. Was there an area that you identified with? What did you hear God telling you? What can you do to obey? It may not be easy, but whatever it is you may need to do, remember - God will give you the strength and ability to faithfully obey Him.

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Romans 3:23

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

**Today's Reading:** Romans 2:1-16

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** What warning does Paul give in this passage? In verse 4, how does he describe God? What is God trying to do? What does Paul say the Gentiles (unbelievers) do in verses 13-15?

**Question for Journaling:** One of the biggest challenges we face today is hypocrisy in the church. To purposely try to make ourselves look good while judging others is one of the biggest reasons people have walked away from Christianity. What can we do to change that (see James 1:22-27)? Humility is the cure for hypocrisy...how can we apply the principles in James?

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 John 1:8-9

If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

**Today's Reading:** 1 John 1:5 – 1 John 2:6

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In these verses, what is the truth about those who say they don't sin? In 1 John 1:9, what does God do for us when we confess? What is the evidence of knowing God?

**Question for Journaling:** Having a good self-image is a popular concept today, but what we need is an accurate self-image – one that is based on God's standard. What standard do you use to evaluate yourself? How do you evaluate sin in your life - do you generalize it or are you willing to be specific? This week, ask God to help you see yourself accurately.

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 John 1:8-9

If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

**Today's Reading:** Matthew 23:1-39

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** What does Jesus call the Pharisees (the religious leaders) in this passage? What do you notice about what He is telling them?

**Question for Journaling:** Even in the Christian community there is the danger of putting on false pretenses to look good to others. Jesus is telling us we need to practice what we preach! Is that hard or easy for you? Is there an area of your life you may need to work on in this way? This week ask God to show you where you may have demonstrated hypocrisy and how to change it.

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 John 1:8-9

If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

**Today's Reading:** Romans 5:1-11

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In verse 6, how are we described? How did God demonstrate His love for us? What hope does that give us?

**Question for Journaling:** We are helpless to save ourselves – apart from Christ, we can't enjoy lasting change in our lives. The world is full of self-help and self-improvement books and speakers, but the real improvement plan doesn't come from us but Christ. Have you been trying to "fix" or improve yourself on your own or using self-help/improvement guides? This week, ask God to show you where you have been trying to change yourself rather than letting God transform you.

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 John 1:8-9

If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

**Today's Reading:** Ephesians 4:14-32

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In this passage, what are we to “put off”? What are we to “put on”? What are some of the practical ways the “new man” shows he’s changed?

**Question for Journaling:** The Christian life takes practice – daily application of God’s ways for living. In fact, much of the Christian life is UN-learning old habits and sinful practices while learning new and godly habits. What do you need to UN-learn in your life? If you have been a Christian for some time, think back to what God helped you UN-learn and thank Him. Since we are never finished, ask Him what you still need to change.

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 John 1:8-9

If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

**Today's Reading:** 1 Peter 1:3-25

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In verses 15-16, who are we to become like? Why? In verse 24, what is our life compared to?

**Question for Journaling:** Peter is quoting Leviticus 19:2 in which the Lord gives instruction for living that would clearly show God's people to be different from other nations and pagan religions. Because our time on earth is short, we must make the most of each day. Especially as Christians, we should live in a way that people see God in our life. Does your life look different than unbelievers? In what way? In what way can you be more holy so others will be drawn to God?

**Key Concept:**  
*Holy*  
Sacred; set apart

*My PRAYER...*



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 John 1:8-9

If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

**Today's Reading:** 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In verse 17, how are those in Christ changed? From what or whose point of view does this come from? In verse 21, what do we become?

**Question for Journaling:** Have you ever struggled with the desire for the approval of others? This can be a debilitating way of life if it is our goal. Paul makes it clear that outward appearances is not what is important, but what's in the heart. Even Christians still wrestle with this, but the good news is we are a new creation! We don't have to rely on what others think to have joy, but what God has done for us. If needed, ask God to help you take your eyes off yourself and focus on pleasing Him only.

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Romans 8:1-2

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

**Today's Reading:** Romans 8:18-30; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In this passage, who and what is eagerly waiting for God? Why? In verse 23, what do believers long for? What is God's goal for us in verses 29-30?

**Question for Journaling:** When sin entered the world, all of creation suffered under its effects. Not only does nature reveal it through decay, but so do we. We suffer physical and medical maladies, emotional and relational challenges – all because of sin. The hope that we have is that it is temporary! Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-10. What is the hope Paul give us here? Does it encourage you to know that no matter what you may be struggling with right now, we as believers have confidence that our eternity with Christ will be pain free?

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Romans 8:1-2

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

**Today's Reading:** Romans 8:31-39

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In verse 31, who is for us? Can anything separate us from God's love?

**Question for Journaling:** How many times have you or someone you know thought that God didn't love you or care because you were going through difficult circumstances? We are often taught that love equals getting good things and hate/anger equals bad things. With God this is not so – God gave up His Son to be crucified on our behalf because of love (see John 15:13). Ask God to help you see His love through the pain and to be able to grow through it.

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Romans 8:1-2

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

**Today's Reading:** Romans 6:1-14

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In verses 6-7, what are believers freed from? How? In verses 12-14 what are we instructed to do?

**Question for Journaling:** It can be very frustrating as Christians to feel like we can't stop sinning. These verses tell us that we no longer have to sin – we have been freed from it's control in our lives! Does that give you hope? This doesn't mean we are no longer tempted to sin, but we can "just say NO" to sin – it's our choice. Is there a sin in your life you have had a particularly hard time stopping? The next time you are tempted in that area, remember if you are a believer, that sin has no power over you and you can walk away (see James 4:7)!

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Romans 8:1-2

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

**Today's Reading:** Psalms 51:1-19, 2 Corinthians 7:10

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** When does David say we are sinners? In verse 3, what is he aware of? In verse 8, what does David ask for? What had God done for David?

**Question for Journaling:** How easy is it for you to recognize your rebellion against God? Does it break your heart? David expresses his grief over his sin against the Lord and his thankfulness for being broken by it. That's our goal – to be broken but in the right way. Read 2 Corinthians 7:10. In this verse, what does Godly sorrow produce? Take time to evaluate how you feel about sin and ask God to help you see sin as He sees it and where you have been rebellious.

**Key Concept:**

*Broken*

(Greek: *Dakah*)

Crushed, contrite, collapsed

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Romans 8:1-2

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

**Today's Reading:** Colossians 2:6-15

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** How are believers to live? In verse 10, who is Christ head of? In verse 11, what has been removed for those who are in Christ? What has Christ done for us?

**Question for Journaling:** The roots of a tree have been created to provide nourishment and stability. The deepest roots have the ability to withstand the strongest winds. Our life in Christ must have roots – wisdom and maturity that develops through daily devotions, study, prayer and worship. This is how our faith and hope grows. How are your roots doing? Do you feel like a strong wind will knock you down or will you stand firm? How can you deepen your roots in Christ?

**Key Concept:**  
*Rooted*

To cause to strike root; to strengthen with roots; to render firm; to fix, establish, or cause a person or a thing to be thoroughly grounded.

**My PRAYER...**



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Romans 8:1-2

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

**Today's Reading:** Psalms 103:1-22

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** What are the characteristics of God in this scripture? How does He deal with His follower? How does He deal with our sin?

**Question for Journaling:** Have you ever thought there was a sin too big for God to forgive? Nothing is too big for the Lord! What are you wrestling with that you haven't handed over to Him yet? The hope we have in Christ is that His sacrifice covers ALL our sin - no matter how big it is. Don't hinder your relationship with Christ by hanging onto something He has already died for!

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

**Today's Reading:** Galatians 2:11-21

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** Why did Paul confront Peter? What was the result of Peter's actions? What does Paul say makes us right before God? When we fully accept Christ, who lives?

**Question for Journaling:** Have you ever tried to change by your own power and determination or by following a set of rules? How well did it work? Even for Christians this can be a problem – we try to change ourselves from the outside in rather than letting God change us from the inside out. Christ must live in us BEFORE we can really change. This week, ask God to show you if you have been trying to do this yourself and help you to let Him have control.

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

**Today's Reading:** 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** What is the main message in this passage?

**Question for Journaling:** This time of year, it is easier to express love toward others – it is also easier to become busy with activities and lose sight of why we celebrate Christmas. As a church we provide holiday food baskets for families in need as well as other ways to serve during the Christmas season. How does today's reading apply? If you participated in any of these areas, what was your motive? How was your heart changed?

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

**Today's Reading:** John 8:1-11

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** What did the Pharisees ask of Jesus? What was their motive? The religious leaders were pointing to scripture found in Leviticus 20:10 and Deuteronomy 22:22-24. They were actually misquoting these verses as the law stated both the man and the woman were to be put to death. What was Jesus' response?

**Question for Journaling:** Jesus tells this woman "go and sin no more". When we come to God asking forgiveness, we can't stop there. The life following must be a changed life – we are to stop sinning. This passage clearly shows that we CAN change and stop sinning! If you are a Christian, what sin(s) in your life did Christ heal you of that you never thought would stop? How did this affect your family and friends?

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

**Today's Reading:** Acts 19:11-20

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** What was God doing through Paul? Who else was copying this? What was the result?

**Question for Journaling:** Ephesus was filled with idol worship, sorcery and other demonic practices. When the people heard what had happened to the sons of Sceva it produced a powerful change. Sometimes when we become a Christian we have a hard time letting go of items we've spent money on or worked hard to buy. If you are Christian, are there any items left from your old life that need to be removed from your home/life? If so, what is stopping you? If you have children, take this opportunity to teach them how God wants us to change by doing this as a family (if appropriate).

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

**Today's Reading:** Ephesians 4:17-32

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** What kind of life are we to have as believers? In verses 22-24, what are we commanded to do?

**Question for Journaling:** "A leopard can't change its spots" – an old saying that is an excuse for bad behavior. In this passage, Paul mentions anger, theft, speech, gossip, bitterness, and arguing. Which "spot" do you struggle with the most? Using these verses, what can you do to change it? As you "put on the new man", notice how God changes your heart and attitude.

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

**Today's Reading:** Romans 12:1-21

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In verse 1, how are we to present ourselves? Why? How are we to think and act toward others? How are we to show love?

**Question for Journaling:** One of the changes we experience as believers is a love for others we can't create on our own as well as the desire to serve God. Has God placed a passion for an area of ministry on your heart? What have you done to explore how to serve in this area? If you already give of your time and resources, thank God for giving you the ability to do so. If you haven't taken that step yet, we would love to help guide you in this. Just contact the church office at (760) 384-3333 for assistance.

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

## Monday, December 24, 2018 | Christmas

**Memory Verse:** Isaiah 9:6

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Today's Reading:** Isaiah 9:1-7

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** What is the prophecy given to Israel? Who fulfills this prophecy? What are His roles?

**Question for Journaling:** One of the best known prophecies was the coming of the Messiah, which was fulfilled at the birth of Jesus. However, many of the Jews didn't believe He was the promised Messiah. Even the location of His birth was prophesied (see Micah 5:2). Today, doubt and unbelief still permeate human thinking. Does prophecy play a part in your faith? What do your friends and family believe about Jesus? How can you help those with questions and doubts?

### My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Isaiah 9:6

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Today's Reading:** Luke 2:1-20

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** The first seven verses of this passage list three fulfilled prophecies. What are they? Who did God choose to deliver this Good News to?

**Question for Journaling:** What a gift! The Son of God has been born AND He chose normal, everyday people as the vessels to make it happen. In verse 19 it says that Mary “pondered” these things in her heart. Mary, having been told what would happen by the angel Gabriel, the response of her cousin Elizabeth (see Luke 1:39-45), and now hearing what the shepherds said, must have been amazed and was putting the pieces together. That is what we should do with the information we have been given as well. What has God shown you that causes you to ponder and spend time putting it all together? Do you see the picture? Take time today to worship the Lord for His gift of Jesus Christ!

**Key Concept:**  
*Pondered*  
*Greek: Sumballousa*

To put things together, to confer with one's self.

**My PRAYER...**



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Isaiah 9:6

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Today's Reading:** Matthew 24:1-28

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** What question did the disciples ask Jesus? In verses 3-7, what kind of global events take place? In verses 8-13, what kind of Christian persecution takes place? The prophecy beginning in verses 15 on point more toward events in Israel – what are they? What is our instruction and hope in verses 25-27? Who is the elect?

**Question for Journaling:** Although we see things getting worse in our world, we can easily become desensitized to them and count them as “normal”. Do you recognize events in our world that Jesus spoke of in today’s reading? Which one(s) capture your attention the most? Why? Jesus encourages us to know His words so we won’t be deceived during the end of times. Do you know the Bible well enough to be able to discern the truth He talks about in these verses?

**My PRAYER...**



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Isaiah 9:6

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Today's Reading:** Daniel 9:20-27

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In this passage, what will again be rebuilt? During what kind of time? In verse 27, what takes place?

**Question for Journaling:** This prophecy in Daniel is one of the most well-known passages that speak of the coming of the antichrist and his role. He is referred to as the "abomination of desolation" in Matthew 24. We are to be looking for a peace treaty in the Middle East brought about by a leader (prince) who will then declare war on Christ/Christianity 3 ½ years later. That said, how important is it for Christians to be informed about the state of Israel, her allies and enemies? How important is it that the United States supports Israel (see Deuteronomy 28)?

*My PRAYER...*



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Isaiah 9:6

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

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

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** What does the Apostle Paul warn will happen in the end times? In verses 14-17, what are we to continue doing? What does the Bible help us to know?

**Question for Journaling:** For a 2,000 year old book, it's unbelievably accurate! When it comes to prophecy, there are many levels – national, global, etc., but the ones we experience most are those of daily living. Do you believe we are living in these end times right now? Why or why not? How amazing to think we are living prophecy!

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

**Memory Verse:** Isaiah 9:6

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Today's Reading:** Matthew 24:29-44

I learned from my reading today...

**Going Deeper:** In verses 29-30, what are we to look for? Who knows when this will take place?

**Question for Journaling:** The great news is that God has a plan – Jesus is coming back and righting all wrongs! Do you ever get discouraged about the condition of the world? How does God's plan for Jesus' return give you hope? How can you encourage others with the same hope?

## My PRAYER...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for: