

LONELY

**BAD
SHEPHERDS**



SELFISH

DO OVER

CHURCH

UNHOLY

DAILY STUDY GUIDE

INEFFECTIVE

ENTITLED

**CROSSROADS COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

**APRIL-JUNE
2019**

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

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Introduction

Church... what is it?

A building? A group of people? A movement, or all of the above?

We all have a very different experience of church – some have had wonderful experiences, and sadly, many have had painful experiences. But one thing is the same, we somehow have a deep inner sense of what church SHOULD be.

Christ's church is meant to be a place where people can come learn, grow, heal and belong. So... as you look at the Christian church in America, is there anything you would change? What would you keep the same? What can we do to reach more people – especially the younger generation?

You are invited to join us as we take a hard look at Church...our church, and seek to discover what God's best is for us and you.

We will embark on a journey that is sure to challenge every person to rethink why we do what we do.

We hope you will enjoy digging deeper in the messages through this study guide as well as take advantage of the Bible studies, life groups and book "Letters to the Church" by Francis Chan, from whom this series was catalyst.

Beginning the weekend of April 27 & 28, we will discuss topics such as:

- Church - Unholy
- Church - Entitled
- Church - Selfish
- Church – Ineffective
- Church – Do Over

Ending with an "Ask It" message where you will have a chance to ask any biblical questions you may have including questions about the series itself.

We hope you will join us and give us your input!

Memory Verse: Exodus 3:4-6

When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, “Moses! Moses!” “Here I am!” Moses replied. “Do not come any closer,” the Lord warned. “Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your father — the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

Today’s Reading: Exodus 3:1-14

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: Who did Moses encounter? In what form? What did God tell Moses to do in verse 5? What was Moses response in verse 6? In verse 14, what is God’s name?

Key Concept:
Holy

Holy – set apart. In this context though, what made this place holy was God’s presence.

Continued on next page

CULTURE SHOCK! “I AM that I AM”: God’s name describes Himself – eternal, always existing. YAHWEH - The name of God was so sacred to the Jewish people it was whispered out of reverence. Over the years, that reverence has disappeared! God’s name is taken in vain and used as a cuss word constantly. We see it in media, TV, music and people around us. *How do you think God feels about that?*

Question for Journaling: Here we see a response from Moses that few people understand – a reverent awe or fear of the Lord and His holiness. Even as Christians we don’t always seem to fully understand this. How do you view God? Is He someone to give you what you ask for? Do you go to Him only when times are hard? Do you know Him as Holy and Sacred? In what way? Sometimes Christianity paints a picture of God and Jesus like they’re our buddies...casual and comfortable and totally devoid of reverence. This week ask God to show you if you have not responded to Him like Moses did and spend time learning to understand His holiness.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Exodus 3:4-6

When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, “Moses! Moses!” “Here I am!” Moses replied. “Do not come any closer,” the Lord warned. “Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your father — the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

Today’s Reading: Revelation 2:1-29

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In this chapter, what are the warnings and encouragements to these churches?

Question for Journaling: In this portion of Revelation, instruction was given to the apostle John while in exile on the island of Patmos. Jesus gave Him a great revelation of the future which included the condition of His church - the warnings, instructions and consequences. Although these churches existed around 2,000 years ago – do you think this applies today as well? How would you describe the condition of the Christian church in America today? What is your part in this?

Key Concept:

Church, Ecclesia

A gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place, an assembly. The whole body of Christians scattered throughout the earth.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Exodus 3:4-6

When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, “Moses! Moses!” “Here I am!” Moses replied. “Do not come any closer,” the Lord warned. “Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your father — the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

Today’s Reading: Revelation 3:1-22

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In this chapter, what are the warnings and encouragements to these churches? In verse 22 what does Jesus say to each person?

Question for Journaling: Today’s reading was the remaining letters to the churches. Jesus says in verses 19 and 20 that He disciplines those He loves and that we are to repent and that He stands at the door and knocks! What does the Christian church need to repent of? If the “church” is individual people then individuals are responsible for the church as a whole. What do you need to repent of? Do you think you represent Christ and His church the way He intended? If so, why? If not, why?

My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Exodus 3:4-6

When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, “Moses! Moses!” “Here I am!” Moses replied. “Do not come any closer,” the Lord warned. “Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your father — the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

Today’s Reading: Matthew 16:1-20

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: Why were the disciples confused about what Jesus said? In verse 12, what did they come to understand? What did Jesus tell Peter specifically about His church?

Question for Journaling: Jesus gives us great news! No matter what happens, His church will never be overcome – nothing will stop it or destroy it! If this is true, then why do you think so many churches and so many Christians live in a defeated manner? Why do they seem powerless against the sin of compromise and apathy? If each person who says they are a Christian lives in the reality of the power and beauty of Christ’s church, what do you think would change? How does this affect you? What may need to change in your life?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Exodus 3:4-6

When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, “Moses! Moses!” “Here I am!” Moses replied. “Do not come any closer,” the Lord warned. “Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your father — the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

Today’s Reading: Ephesians 5:15-32

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verse 21, why are we to submit to one another? How are husbands to love their wives? What is the example given? In verse 27, how does Christ present His church?

Question for Journaling: This portion of scripture is a powerful picture of the importance of the church. Paul uses the picture of the union of a man and woman in marriage to describe the intimate and perfect union of Christ and His church. How does this change your view of the church and how it should function? Do you think Jesus is pleased with how His church is doing and how Christians treat one another? How can you practice each day the instructions in today’s reading?

Key Concept:
Stain / Spot

A fault, moral blemish, of base and gluttonous men.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Exodus 3:4-6

When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, “Moses! Moses!” “Here I am!” Moses replied. “Do not come any closer,” the Lord warned. “Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your father — the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

Today’s Reading: John 17:1-26

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verses 6-19, who is Jesus praying for? In verse 17-19, what does Jesus ask God to do? In verse 20-23, who is Jesus praying for? What is the defining trait that proves to the world that God sent Jesus?

Key Concept:

Set Apart

To render or acknowledge, or to be venerable or hallow, to separate from profane things and dedicate to God, consecrate things to God, to purify internally by renewing of the soul

Question for Journaling: It is amazing to think that Jesus prayed for you! Before He went to the cross, He offered a sacred prayer that should forever change how we live as Christians. How does this encourage you? The Greek word used for “set apart” is the same as sanctify or to make holy. Jesus prayed that His disciples, you and me, are to be different from the world – what makes you different from the world? Do you consider yourself holy? Why or why not? Do you consider others holy? Why or why not? This week, practice setting yourself apart for Christ!

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

Today's Reading: Deuteronomy 6:1-25

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verses 6-9, how committed to God's commands are we to be? Why? What were some of the blessings Israel would receive for loving and faithful obedience to the Lord? In verse 20 God addresses future generations... what was His instruction and why?

Question for Journaling: When it comes to obedience and blessings, it is often mistaken that a single act of obedience should merit a reward. God is looking for faithful patterns of obedience out of love for Him. What is your view on the subject? Our world currently teaches that any good act gets a reward! If you have children or grandchildren, teaching them about faithful obedience to God and parents from a loving heart is important. How can you apply this to your life and/or your family's life this week?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

Today's Reading: Exodus 20:1-21

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verses 4-5, what is God's command and what are the results of obedience/disobedience? In verses 18-21 how did the people respond to God's presence? What was God's test in verse 20?

CULTURE SHOCK! According to a 2007 article from Reuters New York, more Americans could name the ingredients of a Big Mac more easily than the Ten Commandments. Only 60% of Americans can name 5 of the 10 Commandments.

Question for Journaling: As our nation has strayed away from Christianity, so has the memory of God's word. It's all about priority! How often do you go to God's word as the only and final authority in your life for marriage, parenting, financial decisions, conflict, etc.? God's commands don't end with the Ten... He gave us principles for all of life and every situation in the Bible. Do you believe this or do you think we must look outside of God's word for non-spiritual issues? If you have children, how well do they know the Ten Commandments? As a fun exercise this week, commit to learning them and find practical ways to practice them (as appropriate).

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

Today's Reading: John 15:1-17

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verses 1-8, what picture does Jesus use to describe how God works in us? What is Jesus' statement in verse 10? In verse 16, what wonderful words does Jesus call those who are His true followers?

FUN FACT! In this short section of scripture Jesus mentions, Love/loved 9 times, Command/Commandment 5 times and Abide/Remain 10 times. How important do you think this is?!

Question for Journaling: In today's reading Jesus strongly emphasizes the importance of staying connected to Him. Like a branch that is cut off a bush, when we cut ourselves off from God, His word and faithfully following Him, we also wither and die! This doesn't always take place in a one-time decisive act but slowly over time – often without us realizing it. How connected to the Vine are you? How can you tell? Are you producing fruit? What type? Is there anything in your life that is trying to sever your connection to Him? This week, ask God to reveal what may need to change or be removed or what may need to be added to strengthen your connection.

Key Concept:
Abide or Remain

Not to depart, to continue to be present, to be held, kept, continually, to live in or dwell.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

Today's Reading: 1 John 2:1-17

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: According to this passage, how do we know that a person really knows God? In verse 15 what are Christians NOT to love? Why? Does this sound familiar to an early reading this week? Which one?

Question for Journaling: It is doubtful that anyone who says they're a Christian would call themselves a liar if there's one or two small commands not followed. However, the Bible says if we fail in one point of the law we fail the whole law (see James 2:10). It really comes down to motive and heart. We have repeatedly seen the words love, command and obey in the same passages – they must be connected! What is your motive for obedience? The good news is that God sees your heart (see Jeremiah 17:10). We are accountable for faithfulness, God will handle the results!

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

Today's Reading: 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What is the problem in the Corinthian church that Paul is addressing? In verse 2 what had the church not done? What is the instruction in verses 9-11?

Question for Journaling: Paul's instruction on how to handle this situation may seem harsh and unloving. We live in a world that tolerates so much that the attitude of compromise and permissiveness has infiltrated many churches – to the point of turning a blind eye to sin! If you were in Paul's situation, how would you handle it? Why? Would it match scripture or go against it? Paul uses the example of how yeast leavens bread dough as a picture of the damage sin can cause if left alone. We as individuals as well as the collective church are responsible to help one another and protect the church (read Matthew 18:15-18 and Galatians 6:1-5). If you have any questions we are here to help. Give us a call (760)384-3333

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

Today's Reading: Matthew 15:1-20

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In this passage, what commands of the Lord were the Pharisees (religious leaders) twisting or even breaking?

FUN FACT! "Like the blind leading the blind" ...this well know idiom has its roots here in Matthew 15:4.

Question for Journaling: Just before Jesus ascended into Heaven, after His crucifixion and resurrection, He gave the disciples a command... "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20. Whose commands are His disciples to teach? Who are His disciples? If you are a Christian, this is **your** command as well. Who has God placed in your life to teach? How is it going? Are you teaching scripture or what you think is in scripture? How do you know? This week, commit to confirming from the Bible if what you are passing on to others is correct.

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 22:34-40, John 13:34-35

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In both passages, what is the key word Jesus uses to show how we should treat others? Why?

Question for Journaling: It is clear that love is the characteristic ALL Christians should demonstrate in their lives – for God and each other. Describe how love in the church should look – in today’s church what do you see being done well and not so well? All too often, every responsibility of the church, including love, is placed upon the shoulders of the senior leadership. Is this a correct view? What is your part in this? This week, be aware of who God is placing in your path to show love to? Using 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 how can you demonstrate these qualities in a practical way?

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: Luke 6:27-36

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: According to these verses, who are we to love? How are we to treat them? In verses 32-34 what do sinners do?

Question for Journaling: In today’s reading we can deduce that Christians should love those who mistreat them just as much as we do our friends and family. However, we often find Christians treating their enemies better than their fellow Christians. Why do you think that is? Have you ever done that? If the church is a family, then it will definitely go through hard times like all families do – miscommunication, hurt feelings, etc. How do these verses encourage you to handle these types of situations? Read Matthew 18:15-17 – how can you follow Christ’s instructions here in the face of conflict?

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: Romans 12:9-21

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In Paul’s letter to the church in Rome, what is love to be without? Throughout the rest of the verses, what are believers to do? What are they not to do?

Culture Shock! Love – Defined by Merriam Webster primarily as sexual attraction or affection based on admiration or kinship. The top definition in Urban Dictionary is obsession or infatuation. Is it any wonder for many people love is temporary, easily lost, broken or damaged? When based on feelings it doesn’t last – in God’s economy love is a choice, a verb that is acted on in the interest of others – Read John 3:16 to see how God showed His choice and act of love for you!

Question for Journaling: What does it mean to love without hypocrisy? Can you tell if someone’s act of love is real or false? Maybe that’s why Paul starts with that phrase and then uses several examples of what love should look like. Which area do you do well? Which area do you need to work on? Verse 21 says we are to overcome or conquer evil by doing good... how can you apply this in your life? If you have children, how can you teach them to do this?

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: Hebrews 10:1-25

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verse 4 what is impossible to do? In verse 10, what did God do for us, through Christ? In verse 22-25 what are we to do in response?

Question for Journaling: Part of being in the family of Christ is gathering together, in church and other ways, to encourage one another. However, many people in “the family” experience a profound loneliness and are not connected into the body. This can often result in them leaving the church. However, sometimes loneliness is a self-inflicted wound... we isolate ourselves expecting others to come to us. Is there someone you know who is experiencing this? How can you help encourage them to get involved? In what ways can you encourage others to love and good deeds? If you are the one who is lonely, what can you do to get connected into the family? Let us know how we can help!

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: Ephesians 4:17-32

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verse 22 what are we to lay aside? In verses 23-24 what are we to do instead? In the remainder of the chapter, what does Paul tell the Ephesians this should look like?

Question for Journaling: As you read through the New Testament, one thing becomes clear...there is great emphasis on how Christians should treat each other. Sin and selfishness come naturally to every person and although Christians are freed from this, we all need to practice our new nature toward one another. This must be deliberate and active – who can you invite to coffee or lunch this week? Who can you send a card to? Is there someone you need to make peace with? Who can you invite to serve with you in ministry? This week, begin practicing deliberately loving others in practical ways and if you have children, have them join you and teach them how to love others too!

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: Acts 4:32-37

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: How are the believers described? What were they doing with their possessions?

Question for Journaling: Read Deuteronomy 10:14. According to this verse, who does the Earth and all that is in it belong to? If everything in creation and everything we have belongs to God, then how should we handle our money and possessions? How do you currently view and use your resources? Do you think it’s the church’s job to help people in need or is it everyone’s responsibility? God may not require you to sell everything, but is He challenging you to give more of your time and resources? How will you respond to Him?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Today's Reading: Ephesians 2:1-22

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verses 1-10, what is our original nature and how does God save us and change us? In verse 12, what were the Gentiles without? In verses 13 and 14, what took place?

Question for Journaling: It can be very easy to take salvation for granted and have a light view of Christ's work on the cross. For many, this is where their Christianity stops – "I'm saved, I'm good..." However, verse 10 says we were created FOR good works that God planned for us! What good works do you think they are? A truly saved person is compelled to serve God and others in a tangible and practical way. How do you view this in the church? In your own life? If you believe you have made a commitment to God, are you serving? Why or why not? This week ask God to examine this area of your life and reveal to you what may need to change.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Today's Reading: John 13:1-17

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In today's reading, what example and lesson did Jesus give His disciples? Why?

Culture Shock! The Foot Washer – in biblical times the role of the foot washer was that of a slave, and the lowest one at that! Because the footwear of the time was sandals and walking was the primary form of transportation, a person's feet would get filthy and need to be washed when entering someone's home and before a meal. (Reclining at a table literally meant lying on one's side with your feet in close proximity to the face of the person next to you.) How many world leaders, royalty or Forbes 500 do you think would wash someone's feet?

Question for Journaling: Why do you think it was important the disciples learn this valuable lesson? Was Jesus really worried about foot cleanliness? Probably not as much as heart cleanliness! Washing someone's feet is an incredible act of humility... even if it's someone you know and love. In the church and in your life, how do you see this demonstrated? If you don't see it, what can you do to change it? If the One who died for you washed your feet, how would you respond? PS: did you notice Jesus washed Judas' feet too?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Today's Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-31

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In today's reading, who gets spiritual gifts and who gives them? For what purpose? What example does the Apostle Paul use to describe how Christ's church functions? List the gifts mentioned in this passage.

Question for Journaling: If you are a Christian, you have at least one spiritual gift! Do you know what it is? Are you using it for God's service? It is NOT an option for a believer to not serve, however it is getting increasingly difficult to motivate people in the church to serve. Why do you think that is? The role of the church is to equip people and offer a path, not create desire or energy to serve.

MARK THE DATE! If you're not sure what your Spiritual Gift is or where and how to connect in service, join us on Saturday June 1st for the iFit Spiritual Gifts Class! Just signup at the kiosk or on the church App. We will provide lunch and childcare.

My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Today's Reading: Philippians 2:1-24, Luke 9:23-25

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In Philippians verses 3-4, what should our motive be/not be? In the verses following, whose attitude should we have? In verses 14-15, how are we to do things and for what purpose? In verse 21, what were others concerned with?

Question for Journaling: Selfish Ambition, Self-Promotion, Self Esteem, Self-Actualization: what do these all have in common? A deep and unhealthy focus on self – in the world something to aspire to, in Christianity something to NOT strive to achieve. How would the effort to achieve these attitudes affect God's church? See Luke 9:23-25, What does Jesus have to say about this? Since the focus of self is opposite of Jesus' teachings, do you think this may be the reason so many Christians live in defeat, conflict and confusion? It's like trying to mix oil and water! Ask God in what ways you have been focused on yourself rather than Him and start practicing total focus on serving Him!

My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Today's Reading: Luke 11:33-54

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verses 33-36 what does Jesus compare believers to? What is the warning? Jesus then turns His attention to the Religious leaders and teachers of the Law – what were they doing that seemed right? What was lacking? Who is accountable for the blood of the prophets?

Question for Journaling: “This generation” – Jesus may have been pointing to the Jewish religious leaders of the time, but do His words still ring true today? Our generation is also going to be held accountable for how we represent the Church and what believers teach by their lives and actions. When non-believers see “Christians” whose lives don’t look much different how do you think they view Christianity as a whole? When non-believers can feed the poor, build houses, volunteer in homeless shelters, what can and should we offer to set Christians apart?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Today's Reading: Matthew 10:1-42

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What spiritual gifts/abilities did Jesus give His disciples? What were His instructions to them throughout this chapter?

Word Study: Acknowledge (vs 32) – Greek/homologeho, to confess, profess, not deny, to declare openly, speak out freely, to profess one's self the worshipper of one, to praise, celebrate.

Question for Journaling: This chapter is filled with powerful teaching from Jesus. In Luke 14 we are warned to “count the cost” of following Christ. Today's reading emphasizes much of that cost...persecution, trials, rejection. However, the rewards are great - Eternity with the Father! Do you think believers have the same power today that Jesus gave His disciples then? Why or why not? Miracles like these – healing and the casting out of demons – are still happening today in other countries. When we as Christians do not serve or minister in the church, home and community OR we “check the box” when we do serve thinking we've done our allotted time for the month, we in a sense are “denying” Christ. How does that challenge or encourage you?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 10:11

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.

Today’s Reading: John 10:1-18

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: How does Jesus identify Himself? What is His role? If Jesus is the Shepherd, who is the hired hand?

Word Study: Pastor – A herdsman, shepherd. The tasks of a Near Eastern shepherd were: to watch for enemies trying to attack the sheep - to defend the sheep from attackers - to heal the wounded and sick sheep - to find and save lost or trapped sheep - to love them, sharing their lives and so earning their trust. During World War II, a shepherd was a pilot who guided another pilot whose plane was partially disabled back to the base or carrier by flying alongside him to maintain visual contact.

Question for Journaling: Jesus’ listeners would completely understand the example of shepherds and sheep since this was a main occupation in the culture. The shepherd was to protect the sheep at all costs. Pastors are seen as shepherds of their flock and are to care for and protect them. However, is it the pastor’s sole responsibility? Why or why not? In what way is a pastor to care for the church? What is the basis for your opinion?

My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 10:11

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.

Today’s Reading: Ephesians 4:7-16

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verse 11, what gifts did Jesus give? In verse 12, what is their role? What is the result hoped for?

Question for Journaling: Today’s Christian church often places an enormous amount of responsibility on their pastors (and youth pastors) to meet every need. Is this reasonable or logical? How do you think we’ve come to expect this? How do you think this kind of pressure and expectation affects pastors and churches? Pastors are human beings with personalities, quirks and feelings just like you! How can you support your pastor(s) better? Have you ever had an unreasonable expectation of your pastor(s)? Take time to pray for your pastor(s) and all church leadership on a consistent basis.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 10:11

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.

Today’s Reading: 1Timothy 3:1-12

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What are the requirements to be an overseer (elder) and deacon?

Question for Journaling: The Apostle Paul gave Timothy these instructions for those desiring to be in leadership in the church. Why do you think these specific requirements are so important? This is not a call to perfection as a requirement for leadership but a call to strive for and live by these qualities out of love for the Lord. Many may use this list as an excuse from fulfilling God’s call to lead...do you think this is true? How can we encourage others to lead in the church? Has God been urging you to lead? What are you doing about it? Why or why not?

My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 10:11

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.

Today’s Reading: Hebrews 11:1-40

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: How is faith defined? List the people and ways in which they demonstrated active faith throughout this chapter.

Question for Journaling: What place does faith have in leading? Everything! Each person named in this chapter was a leader – yes including Rahab. Each person made a decision of leadership based on the source of their faith. It may not have looked conventional, but each person/situation was used by God for His purposes. What they all did that was similar, was place themselves in the position for God to work through them. How do these people encourage you to lead? Did they all have degrees and higher education? Did they all have money? Or did they all have an opportunity? What opportunity is in front of you that you can take in faith?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 10:11

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.

Today’s Reading: 1 Peter 5:1-11

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verses 2 and 3, how are the elders to care for God’s flock? In verse 5, how are those who are younger, as well as all others, to respond to them? (See Proverbs 3:34 for reference)

Question for Journaling: It seems the Apostle Peter is concerned with those in the church acting in humility toward one another. When pride is present, what can happen? (See verse 8) The greatest weapon we have against the devil is humility. It was his pride that caused him to fall and take as many with him as possible. How does pride work its way into your life? Do you always recognize it? Many times people disagree with pastors and church leadership. If you have ever disagreed with a pastor/leadership, how did you handle it? Was it out of pride or humility? Did you handle it biblically as stated in Matthew 18:15? Read 1 Timothy 5:19 – what does this verse tell you? If you or someone you know has an issue with a pastor/leader, don’t allow gossip but urge them to follow biblical commands to resolve and offer to go with them if needed.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: John 10:11

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.

Today’s Reading: 1 Timothy 6:1-21

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verses 3-6, what is Paul teaching Timothy? In verse 10, what is the love of money? In verse 11 what was Timothy to pursue?

Question for Journaling: Timothy was a young leader in the new and growing church. Reading through the two letters (1 & 2 Timothy) Paul wrote to him, he was always encouraging and instructing him how to lead as a young person in the midst of many people older than him. It seems age (youth) was as much a challenge in leadership then as it is now. It can be hard for those who are older to trust in younger leaders or embrace the change they bring as much as it can be hard for younger generations to respect and learn from the older. If you are a “mature” person, is it hard for you to embrace the younger leaders? Why? If you are younger, is it hard to submit and respect older leaders? Why? What can both older and younger generations do to build bridges and cross barriers to instruct, learn and encourage one another? What is your personal responsibility in this? If you are a mature leader, who of the younger generation do you see with leadership potential you can mentor? If you are a younger leader, who do see who can mentor you in leadership?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.

Today’s Reading: Matthew 16:21-28

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In this passage, what did Jesus tell His disciples must happen to Him? How did Peter respond? What was Jesus’ response in verse 25-26?

Question for Journaling: Can you imagine? Peter scolding Jesus! We may laugh, but his love for Jesus and lack of understanding played a huge part in his response to Jesus’ words. Do you think people truly understand the cost of following Christ? Do you? What do you think is the primary motive of many people who become Christian? If you are Christian, take time now to evaluate your motive and understanding of the cost of following Him. Have you been trying to hang on to your old life in any way? If so, commit today to give up those things that hinder your relationship with God.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.

Today’s Reading: Galatians 5:13-26

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verse 24, what have those who belong to Christ done? In verses 19-21, what works of the flesh should be crucified? In verse 17 what is the spiritual battle we all face?

Question for Journaling: It is tragic how many people claiming to be Christians continue to live in the flesh. Marriages being torn apart, parents and children in deep conflict, addictions and rebellion dominate lives. How is this possible? People CHOOSE to follow the flesh rather than walk by the Spirit. Selfishness and pride compete and win over humility and forgiveness. Does this please God? If this is something you struggle with, what do you need to do to change it? Don’t become discouraged that the process can be hard but take heart in knowing that God is pleased with faithful obedience to Him!

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.

Today’s Reading: Romans 8:1-25

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verse 17, what is the evidence that a person is a child of God? In verses 18-23 what else suffers?

Word Study: Hope - expectation of good, joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation, to anticipate, usually with pleasure.

Question for Journaling: Suffering is part of the Christian’s life. Whether just going day-to-day or experiencing specific persecution, this should be expected (Read 1 Peter 4:12-16). Do you suffer for the sake of Christ? How? It can be rejection of friends and family, loss of job promotions, bullying in school or other forms of persecution. How can you be sure the suffering you endure is for the sake of Christ and not consequences of sinful attitude or behavior? (Ref. 1 Peter 4:15) How can you maintain hope in the midst of suffering and encourage others as well? How can you glorify God in the midst of persecution?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.

Today’s Reading: Luke 14:25-33

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What does it mean to hate mother, father, brothers, sisters and your own life? What examples does Jesus use in describing how a person must count the cost of following Him?

Word Study: Hate - God is to be loved more than family or self. **Cross** - It was customary practice in a Roman crucifixion for the prisoner to be made to carry his own cross. Jesus is speaking figuratively here in the context of rejection. If the priority is not one’s allegiance to Jesus, then one will not follow him in the face of possible rejection.

Question for Journaling: We may think that we put God first, but have we *REALLY*? If God asked you to move away from your family to be a missionary, would you do it? If God asked you to give up a friend who isn’t very good for you, would you? If you were asked to give up _____? What *IS* God asking you to give up? Are you willing to trust in God and His goodness and the blessings that come with obedience to take that leap of faith? The hardest part is starting... this week, start with one thing can you give up in your life, then commit to continue the practice as God reveals to you what you need to give up to follow Him. Read Psalm 34:8. How does this encourage you?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.

Today’s Reading: 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What are the ways the Apostle Paul was persecuted and suffered?

Question for Journaling: We don’t see this much – if at all in this country, but this type of persecution for the name of Christ happens in other countries. People have been disowned by families, beaten, tortured, and forced underground for becoming Christians. Does this change your view of your personal trials? How can you pray for the underground church? If you were to ask the underground church to pray for the western church, what would you ask them to pray for? For more information on the persecuted church visit: Voice of the Martyrs at www.persecution.com or www.i-am-n.com

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.

Today’s Reading: John 15:18-27; John 16:1-4

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What does Jesus tell His disciples will happen to them on account of Him? Who was hated first? According to verse 25, why did this happen? In chapter 16 verse 1, why did Jesus tell them these things?

Word Study: Fall away – from the Greek, skandalo where we get the word scandal/scandalous. Def: to put a stumbling block or impediment in the way, upon which another may trip and fall, metaph. to offend, to cause a person to begin to distrust and desert one whom he ought to trust and obey, to cause to fall away.

Question for Journaling: The defining moment for every believer is how we handle trials and persecution. Sadly for many, the moment things get hard they walk away from the faith. Read Mark 4:5-6 and 17. This passage, shows us that our ability to stand firm in the face of persecution and hardship is based on being firmly rooted in Christ. What does it take to grow deep roots? What daily practices or disciplines are you doing to endure hardships or prepare for hardships? See Psalm 1:1-3, how can you practice this?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Today’s Reading: Acts 2:1-41

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verses 1-4, what took place? How did the people who heard them respond? How did Peter respond? In verse 41, what was the result of Peter’s address?

Who Is This? Holy Spirit - the third person of the triune God, the Holy Spirit, coequal, coeternal with the Father and the Son, sometimes referred to in a way which emphasizes His work and power.

Question for Journaling: This passage tells of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples – we know it as the Day of Pentecost – having taken place 50 days after Jesus’ ascension. This was a specific event, but all true believers receive the Holy Spirit the moment they are saved (See verse 38). The moment you submit to Christ, you have the same power in you that the disciples received here! Do you believe this? Why or why not? How much do you acknowledge and submit yourself to the Holy Spirit? If you haven’t really thought about it, begin now to learn and understand the role of the Holy Spirit in your life as a Christian.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Today’s Reading: John 14:1-26

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: As you read verses 1-14, what are the disciples having a hard time understanding? Who does Jesus say he will send to help them? In verse 26, what does Jesus say the Holy Spirit will do?

Word Study: Advocate – Paraclete, destined to take the place of Christ with the apostles (after his ascension to the Father), to lead them to a deeper knowledge of the gospel truth, and give them divine strength needed to enable them to undergo trials and persecutions on behalf of the divine kingdom.

Question for Journaling: Isn’t it wonderful to know that Jesus doesn’t expect His followers to figure things out by themselves? It should bring us great comfort to know this. If you do know this, do you live like you know this? How often do believers’ lives look devoid of any power or ability? This is not what God intended for us. Not to make us feel better about ourselves but to bring Him glory as He works through us (see verse 13). Have you made yourself completely available for the Holy Spirit to work through? In what way? If you haven’t yet, start today by letting God know you are willing!

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Today’s Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In this passage, what does the Holy Spirit do and who is He available to?

Question for Journaling: Have you or someone you know ever said it is hard to understand the Bible? We see here that one possibility is unbelief. As believers, although we immediately receive the Holy Spirit, it does take time to learn and understand the Bible, God’s nature and His wisdom. Don’t get discouraged...He won’t stop teaching you as long as you don’t stop trying! However, this isn’t meant to be kept to ourselves, we MUST share what we learn – give it to others - or it is pointless. Read Matthew 28:19-20. What was Jesus’ command? This week, share at least one thing God has taught you with someone and talk about what God is doing in your life.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Today’s Reading: Acts 8:4-25

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: According to these verses, what were the disciples doing? What were the miraculous signs? What mistake did Simon make? How did Peter respond?

Question for Journaling: Miracles of healing and the casting out of demons continues in other countries around the world. These miracles are quite obvious there but here in the United States it is harder to see. How do you see miracles happening in our country – in Ridgecrest? For some it is a healed marriage, healing from addiction or a life given over to Christ. The point of healing isn’t always about us getting fixed, but the testimony it gives to those around us. Has God healed you of something you can use as a testimony? This week, share your story with someone who needs to understand the power of God.

My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Today’s Reading: Acts 6:1-15

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verse 1 – 7, what was the issue? How did the Apostles address it? What were the qualifications? Who did they choose? In verses 8-16, what happened with Stephen? How did God work through him?

Word Study: Power – Greek, Dunamis (root for dynamite, dynamic) Strength power, ability, inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth, power for performing miracles, moral power and excellence of soul.

Fun Fact: The word power – Dunamis – is used 120 times in the New Testament.

Question for Journaling: In today’s reading, we see Stephen with power from the Holy Spirit. He was specifically named and so must have been noticeably different in his walk with God. The Holy Spirit was so present that those around him couldn’t resist. That’s POWER! The work and presence of the Holy Spirit in believers is meant to be explosive – dynamic! Able to speak and do things that can only be attributed to God. How do you see the church demonstrating this? Is there anything that can be done differently? Is this kind of dynamic power present in your life? If not, what can you do to change this? As a church, we are here to help guide you... please let us know if there’s anything we can help with.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Today’s Reading: Ephesians 3:1-21

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: : In verses 1-6, what is the mystery revealed and who revealed it? What is Paul’s prayer for the believers? In verse 20, what is God able to do in us?

Question for Journaling: If every person who is Christian really understood the power within them and used it for God’s glory and purposes, what would this world look like? So what’s the problem? It’s not God – it’s us! We limit Him by lack of belief and imagination, busyness and wrong priorities. He chose YOU to change the world, what are you going to do about it?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:21-22

We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

Today's Reading: Ephesians 2:1-22

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verses 1-10, who were we once, who did we become and how? For what purpose (vs. 10)? In the rest of today's reading, what did Christ come to do? In verses 16-17, what did Christ preach and why (vs. 21-22)?

Word Study: Saved - keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction (from injury or peril), to save a suffering one (from perishing), to deliver from the penalties of the Messianic judgment.

Question for Journaling: Have you ever wanted a "do-over" - the chance to start fresh to do better? We have that chance every day. Many people who attend church regularly may not be saved and they don't realize it. If that were you, would you want to know? Do you know someone who thinks they're saved but maybe aren't? What is your responsibility to them? If churches are filled with people who think they're saved but aren't, and we are supposed to be the dwelling place of God, how can we start over so the world will know who God is? What is your part in this?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Tuesday, June 11, 2019 | Do Over

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:21-22

We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

Today's Reading: Ephesians 4:1-16; Galatians 5:13-15

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verses 1-6, what are believers called to? According to verses 7-16, what did Christ give and why? Who is to do their part and why?

Word Study: Unity – Oneness, unanimity, agreement

Question for Journaling: Clearly Jesus meant His church to be the representative of who He is – a place where people can go to hear and learn who He is. If this is true and WE are the church, then how dangerous is it to practice to looking at people in the church and focus on all they do wrong (see Galatians 5:13-15)? This passage lays a heavy responsibility on believers to each do their OWN part in practicing preserving the unity of the peace as well as speaking the truth in love. The key word here is **practice**. How can you practice helping to preserve unity in the church and speaking truth in love? When each person does their part – the church is strengthened and grows!

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:21-22

We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

Today's Reading: Ephesians 4:17-32

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: According to this passage, how are believers to live? In Whose image were we created? How are we to change?

Word Study: Righteousness - the condition acceptable to God, the doctrine concerning the way in which man may attain a state approved of God, integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking feeling, and acting.

Question for Journaling: The evidence of a devoted follower of Christ is someone who strives and practices to no longer live, talk, act and treat others the way they used to – simply put – they live righteously before the Lord. Righteousness is not something reserved for special super Christians! It is for everyone... do you see the church as righteous? Why or why not? What needs to change? What is God revealing to you that needs to change?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:21-22

We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

Today's Reading: Ephesians 5:1-21

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verses 1-2, how are we to love? In verse 10, what are we to always try to learn? In 15-17, how are we to live and why?

Question for Journaling: Throughout Jesus' ministry, He taught and reminded His followers the importance of loving one another and being light in the world (see Matthew 5:14-16 and 22:37-39). Here, the believers in Ephesus would have been surrounded with pagan temples and idol worship which often included sexual immorality. So it was imperative their new life in Christ look VERY different from their environment. How does this apply today? If the church could start over, how would you change it? What can individuals and the church as a whole do to show love and light?

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:21-22

We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

Today's Reading: Ephesians 5:21-33; Ephesians 6:1-9

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: Looking through this passage, list how relationships are to change as Christians.

Word Study: Submit – Greek, Hupotasso. To arrange under, to subordinate, to obey-be under obedience (obedient) a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden.

Question for Journaling: Today's reading started with the instruction to submit to one another in the Lord. This is not a command only for wives but for all Christians to each other. Each person should see and treat others as better than themselves. Sadly, we have a distorted view of what submission is. It is easy to submit when we love God so completely that it becomes an honor to live a submissive life to Him and others. This kind of submission is completely freeing! However, many people are too concerned with getting their way to understand this. For most it conjures images of people demanding control of others – this is not what God means. With this in view, if Christ's church practiced submission to each other more, how would the church look? Where and with whom do you need to practice submission? What step do you need to take to begin? (see 1 John 1:9)

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:21-22

We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

Today's Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verse 12, what is our struggle really against? In verse 13 what are we to take up and why?

Question for Journaling: The Apostle Paul ends his letter to the Ephesians by reminding them that their battle isn't with each other but Satan himself! We often make the same mistake by fighting the wrong enemy... As the church matures and changes to glorify God and reach others with the Gospel, how do you think Satan will respond? If each believer was faithful in keeping their armor on at all times, how would the church look? (PS: we aren't supposed to take it off at bedtime and put it back on before we leave the house) If every Christian stopped fighting each other and started praying for each other, how would the church change? This week meditate on each piece of armor and how it applies to your life. Also, begin praying for the church, leaders, pastors and individuals in the church.

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Monday, June 17, 2019 | Ask It!

The message for this weekend is Ask It! An opportunity for you to ask any questions you have about the series/messages, the Bible, God, Jesus, trust, marriage, kids, heaven and hell or... anything! So this week's study guide we'll turn the tables a little by looking at some powerful questions God and Jesus asked people in the Bible. We hope you have fun with this and enjoy the process of learning that God may have questions for you too! At the end of each day you will be given an opportunity to write your question in the journal section. We are encouraging everyone to submit their questions to the church through the text phone, website or app (information provided) so we can answer it during services on the 22nd and 23rd.

Memory Verse: Mark 8:29

Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?" Peter replied, "You are the Messiah."

Today's Reading: Mark 8:27-30; Matthew 16:13-20; Luke 9:18-22

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What did the disciples answer Jesus? What did Peter say?

Question for Journaling: The people had drawn their own conclusions of who they thought Jesus was based on what they had been taught. However, the main point here is Jesus' question to you...who do YOU say Jesus is? Before you answer, really think about it? Who is He REALLY to you? Do you know why you believe this? How did you come to this conclusion? Is there any error in what you think? This week take time to evaluate this answer and ask God if anything needs to change.

Ask It Question: Text – (760)301-4840, www.ccc-rc.org, Church App – scroll down and click on bottom left box "Questions?"

My Prayer...



Praise for:



Request for:



Forgiveness for:

Memory Verse: Mark 8:29

Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?” Peter replied, “You are the Messiah.”

Today’s Reading: Genesis 3:1-12

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What did the serpent ask Eve? What questions did God ask Adam and Eve?

Question for Journaling: There are several questions in today’s reading. First, Satan... one of Satan’s best tricks is to cause us to question God! Why do you think Eve fell for his trick? Have you ever questioned what God says? Why? Asking to learn is good, it is only when questions are motivated by pride that things can go wrong. We see this in the rest of the passage... “Where are you?” do you think God didn’t know where they were? Here in the answer we hear Adam and Eve’s shame – they knew they had done wrong. Have you ever tried to hide from God? How did it go? Read Jeremiah 23:24. God always knows our sin and when we try to hide it. When He asks us what we have done, it’s not for His benefit but ours. How does confronting your sin head on help in dealing with it? If there is a sin you are trying to hide from God, confess your sin and repent...remember He is faithful to forgive!

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Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?” Peter replied, “You are the Messiah.”

Today’s Reading: Jonah 4:1-11

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: Why was Jonah angry? What did God ask him?

Question for Journaling: Nineveh was a violent and wicked city and Jonah was a prophet that God sent to tell the people about salvation and repentance. However, Jonah felt they didn’t deserve a chance to repent and change. His anger at God’s mercy is obvious. Have you ever been angry that someone who had lived a sinful life and caused damage to others repented, became Christian and received forgiveness? It can be too easy to insist justice be served to others...but what about you? What if you are the one who is saved and forgiven? Do you think it would be right for someone to be angry about it? The story of Jonah is really the story of God, Israel and God’s plan to redeem all people. Jonah represents Israel...angry that salvation was offered to the Gentiles through Christ. This week, praise God for His mercy and ask Him to reveal if there is anyone you have withheld the joy of salvation.

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Today’s Reading: Genesis 18:1-14

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: What news did Sara hear that made her laugh? What did God ask Abraham?

Question for Journaling: In Genesis 17:4, God made a covenant with Abraham to make him the father of many nations. By the time God fulfilled this promise, his wife Sarah was around 90 years old! God’s question, “is anything impossible for the Lord” is a question we must all answer. Is there anything you think is impossible for God to do in your life? The miraculous and supernatural work of God is never a problem for God – it is us who inhibit Him with doubt and fear, pride and selfishness. What passion, idea, ministry, goal or other thing has God put on your heart that you are not pursuing? Why? Are you, like Sarah, doubting God can or will give you what you need? What can you do to step out in faith and believe God?

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Memory Verse: Mark 8:29

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Today’s Reading: Job 38:1-41

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In the first few verses, what is God’s challenge to Job? What does He ask Job in verse 4?

Question for Journaling: This chapter is a list of questions God asked. Job, through no fault of his own, had experienced complete loss of his family, health, home and possessions. Left with a complaining wife and some well-meaning but misguided friends, Job begins to complain about his situation to which God responds with reminding him of His sovereignty. When you are going through trials - health, relationship, financial or other problems, do you ask God why it is happening? Do you ever whine to Him? Do you ever tell Him it is unfair? But does fairness have anything to do with life? Can you trust God even when you don’t understand the why of a situation? As you go through trials, thank God for them (see James 1:2-4) and ask Him what you can learn and share with others.

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Memory Verse: Mark 8:29

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Today’s Reading: Exodus 4:1-11

I learned from my reading today...

Going Deeper: In verse 10, what was Moses’ argument to God? How did God respond in verse 11?

Question for Journaling: God had chosen Moses to lead His people out of Egypt. Filled with doubt and fear Moses began a dialog with God that looked more like an argument – ending with his complaint that he doesn’t speak well. Excuses, excuses! God asks, “who made man’s mouth?... again, we see God reminding someone that He is in charge. What encouragement do the last few days of reading give you regarding serving God in an area you have no experience with? How can you encourage someone else with this? As you finish this week, list 5 things you would like to do in the church, town, home, school to serve God and others then pray that you will be able to hear and see God moving in those areas and take a step of action. If you need guidance, we are here to help! Let us know how we can support you.

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