

**Grow,
Pray,
and
Study Guide.**



Prayers For The Week

Monday: Jesus, let me be fruitful in your name. Let me grow in faith and service. Help me to grow with God's people in unity and love. Amen.

Tuesday: Savior, you have called me to be your child. I am blessed and want to share my blessings with others. Help me to grow with God's people in unity and love. Amen.

Wednesday: Yahweh, just as you used Joseph, I want to be used by you. Just as you gave Joseph a heart of forgiveness, I want to have that same heart. Help me to grow with God's people in unity and love. Amen.

Thursday: Christ, I know you never turn against me, my own doubts make me falter. Give me the persistence of the Canaanite woman in her faith. Help me to grow with God's people in unity and love. Amen.

Friday: Holy God, you are so good. You give me more than I deserve. Help me to grow with God's people in unity and love. Amen.

August 20, 2017

Notes: today I pray



Bring a friend Sunday or Monday to share God's Light. Check in on Facebook.

Study Guide August 20, 2017

Monday August 21st (I took time to pray today)

Read: Matthew 15:10-20 Another metaphor for us to more readily understand Jesus's teachings. The laws of the Old Testament demanded strict restrictions on what the faithful could eat. Jesus is teaching that the importance of your life is what you produce. Nothing you take into your body can do harm to your soul; however you are responsible for what you do.

Question: It seems that we are uncomfortable with accountability, but why is that? Why is it hard for all of us to do what God wants?

Tuesday Aug 22nd (I took time to pray today)

Read: Romans 11:1-2b, 19-32 There is comfort in this passage. It is good to know that God will never revoke his callings to us nor the gifts he has granted to accomplish his work. The mercy he shows us is not what we are owed, but instead he blesses us with more mercy than we can ever be worthy of.

Question: Are you reassured that God will never take your gifts away when he has called you? Does that encourage you to undertake a mission that you know God is asking of you?

Wednesday Aug 23rd (I took time to pray today)

Read: Genesis 45:1-5 Joseph had not always had an easy life. Hated by his brothers, sold as a slave, his wisdom and obedience to God improved his life greatly. He was able to save Egypt and, as a result, his own family. In spite of all that his brothers had done to him, Joseph loved and fed them, saving them from death by starvation.

Question: What example does Joseph set for us all? Do you have the heart that he has? Could you forgive a person who wronged you as he did?

Thursday Aug 24th (I took time to pray today)

Read: Matthew 15:21-28 This Canaanite woman is a descendent from the ancient tribe which had been enemies of Israel. At first he rebuffs her request to heal her daughter, because he was still ministering to the Chosen People. She persists, arguing that, just as dogs get crumbs, even she is worthy. Without leaving, Jesus commends her on her faith and heals her daughter.

Question: How many times have you felt unloved by Jesus? Can it be that we just need to settle ourselves and focus on the importance of persistence in our faith?

Friday Aug 25th (I took time to pray today)

Read: Psalm 133 This psalm of joy and reassurance is the perfect way to end a week of study. How good and joyful it is when the people of God live together in union and communion.

Question: What would your psalm of joy be? How would you express all of the good things that God has blessed you with?

This week's reading are about restoration, reassurance, renewal. Focus your prayers on the blessings you received from these readings. Where do they lead you? Remember to include our church, both local and universal, in your prayers. Lift up your family, your community, our country, and our people in your prayers now as we see so much tragedy and hate around us.

Don't forget, you can find resources for study and spiritual growth at UMCdiscipleship.org or talk to Joe, Liz, Donna, or Pastor Bob to step out and step up in faith.

