

Walking Together in the Word

Devotions on the Weekly Scripture Readings for July 2025

The purpose of the Chapel Devotion Project is to encourage individuals and families to make prayer and devotional time in God's Word a regular part of their daily lives. We believe many good things will come from your intentional study and reflection of God's Word:

- Your relationship with God and with others will grow and be strengthened.
- Study of the Scripture and hymns for the upcoming weekend will enhance your worship.
- You will come to the Lord daily in prayer, bringing your praise, thanks, and requests to Him.

How to Use These Devotions

Each week contains five pages of devotional material. How you choose to use the material is up to you. You could study one reading or one page a day. You might read several portions every other day. You may use the short order of worship provided below. Use the material in the way that best fits you and your family.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

DEVOTION and REFLECTION

PRAYERS and THE LORD'S PRAYER

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

or

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Leader: The almighty and merciful God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.
All: Amen.

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Devotions and supporting material written by Pastor Ted Laesch and Mary Laesch.

Walking Together in the Word

June 30–July 5, 2025

This devotional material is based on the Bible readings for Sunday, July 6.

Proper 9

The Gospel: Luke 10:1–20

Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two

10 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. 2 He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. 3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. 4 Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. 5 When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ 6 If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. 7 Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. 8 When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. 9 Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ 10 But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 11 ‘Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.’ 12 I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town. 13 Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. 14 But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. 15 And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades. 16 Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.” 17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.” 18 He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Devotion on the Gospel

Jesus has been teaching and preaching. He has healed the sick and cured diseases. He has given hope and joy and meaning to people’s lives. And now He gathers seventy-two of His followers around Him and He says to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.”

There are so many people who don’t know the Good News. They don’t know that God loves them, that God cares about them, that God sent a Savior for them. So Jesus says, “Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field.” And then He turns to those disciples gathered around Him and says, “Go! You are the answer to the prayer! You go. This mission—to share the Word—it is your mission.

Jesus is still sending out people into the harvest field, and not just missionaries and pastors and other church professionals! If you have been baptized into His name, you have been called into His service. He says to you: My mission is your mission. My mission is for you to tell others that they have a Lord who loves them, a Lord who forgives them, a Lord who saves them. My mission is your mission!

So the call goes out to you, “Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field.” He looks at you and says: You are the answer to the prayer! You go! My mission is your mission!”

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*Earlier, Jesus sent out the Twelve (See **Luke 9:1-6**). Now He sends 72 more to proclaim that the kingdom of God was at hand. Some rejected this news, but others believed. The Word of God is powerful.*

Say a prayer of praise and thanks to God for the faith He has given you—your name is written in heaven.

Do you have a friend, a family member, a co-worker, or a neighbor who doesn’t know Christ? Think of a way to share God’s love with them this week.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Isaiah uses the picture language of a mother, a river, and grass in this passage. How does this imagery describe how God meets our needs?

This section in Galatians describes how Christians should live with one another. Underline one piece of instruction. How does following this instruction build up the body of Christ?

*Verse to remember:
Galatians 6:9*

The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 66:10-14

"Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her,
all you who love her;
rejoice greatly with her,
all you who mourn over her.
11 For you will nurse and be satisfied
at her comforting breasts;
you will drink deeply
and delight in her overflowing abundance."
12 For this is what the Lord says:
"I will extend peace to her like a river,
and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream;
you will nurse and be carried on her arm
and dandled on her knees.
13 As a mother comforts her child,
so will I comfort you;
and you will be comforted over Jerusalem."
14 When you see this, your heart will rejoice
and you will flourish like grass;
the hand of the Lord will be made known to his servants,
but his fury will be shown to his foes.

The Epistle: Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18

6 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. 2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. 3 If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. 4 Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, 5 for each one should carry their own load. 6 Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor. 7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. 14 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. 16 Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to the Israel of God. 17 From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. 18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

The Psalm: Psalm 66:1-7

Shout for joy to God, all the earth!

2 Sing the glory of his name;
make his praise glorious.

3 Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!
So great is your power
that your enemies cringe before you.

4 All the earth bows down to you;
they sing praise to you,
they sing the praises of your name."

5 Come and see what God has done,
his awesome deeds for mankind!

6 He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the waters on foot—
come, let us rejoice in him.

7 He rules forever by his power,
his eyes watch the nations—
let not the rebellious rise up against him.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*Name or jot down
some of the awesome
deeds of God
described in this
psalm. What events
do you think the
psalmist is
remembering?*

SHOUT FOR JOY TO
GOD,
all the earth!

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Jesus calls each one of us to share the Good News with others. As you read the text of this hymn, think of what you can do to share Jesus' love with someone at work, at home, in the classroom, or out in the world.

The Hymn : Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying LSB 826

Hark, the voice of Jesus crying,
"Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests
waiting—
Who will bear the sheaves
away?"
Loud and long the Master calleth;
Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying,
"Here am I, send me, send me"?

If you cannot speak like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
You can say He died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked
With the judgment's dread
alarms,
You can lead the little children
To the Savior's waiting arms.

If you cannot be a watchman,
Standing high on Zion's wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven,
Off'ring life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties
You can do what God commands;
You can be like faithful Aaron,
Holding up the prophet's hands.

Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do,"
While the multitudes are dying
And the Master calls for you.
Take the task He gives you gladly,
Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calleth,
"Here am I, send me, send me!"

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Faith + Life Connections

Sometimes it can be hard to share our faith with others. We might be afraid they will laugh or be mean to us. But we can take courage, knowing that Jesus is with us, just as He was with the 72 He sent out. Practice by telling each other the Good News tonight!

Luke 10:1-20

We can become discouraged when we don't see immediate results from doing good to others. God says, "Don't give up!" People see and experience God's love through our actions.

Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18

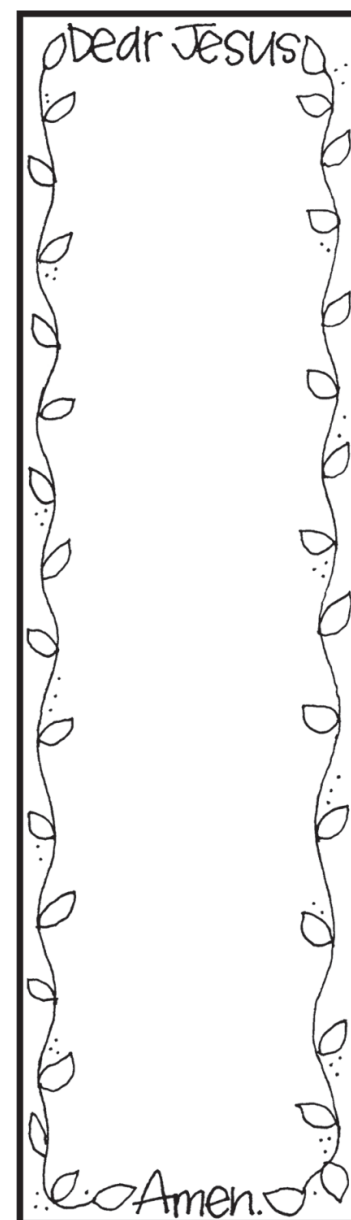
Psalms 66 praises God for the great things He has done. What are some of the great things that God has done for you? Make a poster of God's awesome deeds and add to it throughout the week. Give God thanks and praise for all that He has done!

Psalms 66:1-7

Verse to Remember:

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9



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Prayer for the Week

Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send Your messengers to preserve Your people in true peace that, by the preaching of Your Word, Your Church may be kept free from all harm and danger. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Walking Together in the Word

July 7–July 12, 2025

This devotional material is based on the Bible readings for Sunday, July 13.

Proper 10

The Gospel: Luke 10:25–37

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

26 “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

27 He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

28 “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

30 In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

36 “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

37 The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Devotion on the Gospel

The Samaritan stopped and helped the robbed and beaten man, even though he had every reason to look the other way and pass by on the other side, just like the others had done. But he stopped and cared and showed mercy and had compassion and loved, not counting the cost.

It is certainly an example to follow. We too should care and show mercy and have compassion and love, not counting the cost. But this story doesn’t just give us a good example to follow, it points us to One who did all of that—for us!

Jesus cares so much that He doesn’t care if people are strangers, if they’ve been bypassed by others. Jesus cares so much that He didn’t care how much it would cost Him to show mercy and love to others. Jesus cares so much that He didn’t care that it would cost Him His very life. He cared and showed mercy and had compassion and loved, not counting the cost.

And that Jesus continues to come to us, even as we are beaten and broken. There is no one, not one, whom He has ever left by the side of the road. He pours out His love on us and assures us of His grace and forgiveness. He lifts us up. He cares and shows mercy and has compassion and loves, not counting the cost. He does not pass us by.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

The expert in the law wanted to put limits on which people he should love. Do we sometimes put limits on which people we will love? Does Jesus?

Jesus is the Good Samaritan who did not count the cost when it came to rescuing you from eternal death. What is your response to Jesus’ extravagant love for you?

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

God gave these and other laws to His people in the wilderness to help them live holy, peaceful lives with one another. What do these laws tell you about our God?

*Verse to Remember:
Leviticus 19:18*

How did the Colossians become filled with “love for all God’s people”?

How can we become filled with love for all God’s people?

The Old Testament Reading: Leviticus 19:9–18

“When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10 Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God.

11 “Do not steal. “Do not lie. “Do not deceive one another. 12 “Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the Lord. 13 “Do not defraud or rob your neighbor. “Do not hold back the wages of a hired worker overnight. 14 “Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but fear your God. I am the Lord. 15 “Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly. 16 “Do not go about spreading slander among your people. “Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor’s life. I am the Lord. 17 “Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt. 18 “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

The Epistle: Colossians 1:1–14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
2 To God’s holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ:
Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God’s people— 5 the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel 6 that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace. 7 You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, 8 and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, 10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, 12 and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.

The Psalm: Psalm 41

Blessed are those who have regard for the weak;
the Lord delivers them in times of trouble.

2 The Lord protects and preserves them—
they are counted among the blessed in the land—
he does not give them over to the desire of their foes.

3 The Lord sustains them on their sickbed
and restores them from their bed of illness.

4 I said, "Have mercy on me, Lord;
heal me, for I have sinned against you."

5 My enemies say of me in malice,
"When will he die and his name perish?"

6 When one of them comes to see me,
he speaks falsely, while his heart gathers slander;
then he goes out and spreads it around.

7 All my enemies whisper together against me;
they imagine the worst for me, saying,

8 "A vile disease has afflicted him;
he will never get up from the place where he lies."

9 Even my close friend,
someone I trusted,
one who shared my bread,
has turned against me.

10 But may you have mercy on me, Lord;
raise me up, that I may repay them.

11 I know that you are pleased with me,
for my enemy does not triumph over me.

12 Because of my integrity you uphold me
and set me in your presence forever.

13 Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.

Amen and Amen.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

We all, at one time or another, suffer from the consequences of sin. It may be our because of own sin, the sins of others, or the brokenness of the world. The Lord continues to love and care for us in these times. Call out to Him with the psalmist in repentance, and ask for God's loving mercy and healing.

Have Mercy on Me, LORD

Notes,
Thoughts,
Questions

*This hymn is a
prayer for God's
mercy, strength,
and help as we live
in this world,
waiting for the
Lord's return.
Which words in
particular give you
comfort and
encouragement?*

The Hymn: Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart *LSB 708*

Lord, Thee I love with all my heart;
I pray Thee, ne'er from me depart,
 With tender mercy cheer me.
Earth has no pleasure I would share.
Yea, heav'n itself were void and bare
 If Thou, Lord, wert not near me.
And should my heart for sorrow break,
My trust in Thee can nothing shake.
 Thou art the portion I have sought;
 Thy precious blood my soul has bought.
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord,
Forsake me not! I trust Thy Word.

Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich bounty gave
My body, soul, and all I have
 In this poor life of labor.
Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place
May glorify Thy lavish grace
 And help and serve my neighbor.
Let no false doctrine me beguile;
Let Satan not my soul defile.
 Give strength and patience unto me
 To bear my cross and follow Thee.
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord,
In death Thy comfort still afford.

Lord, let at last Thine angels come,
To Abr'ham's bosom bear me home,
 That I may die unfearing;
And in its narrow chamber keep
My body safe in peaceful sleep
 Until Thy reappearing.
And then from death awaken me,
That these mine eyes with joy may see,
 O Son of God, Thy glorious face,
 My Savior and my fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer attend,
And I will praise Thee without end.

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Faith + Life Connections

Look online for instructions to cut out a string of paper people. Talk about who your neighbors are: next-door neighbors, friends, co-workers, the librarian, the homeless man on the street. Write names on the paper people. Pray for them. Find a way to show love to them.

Luke 10:25-37

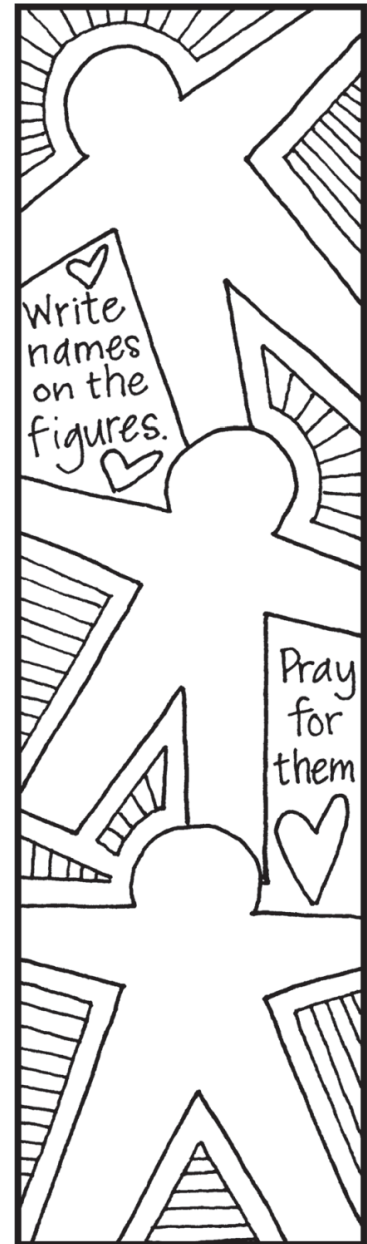
Talk about the rules that your family has. How do they help you live together? Rules aren't always easy to follow, but they're important. Think about God's rules for us, given in the Ten Commandments. Pick one. How does that rule help you show love to God and others?

Leviticus 19:9-18

It's true that some people are harder to love than others. So how do we become "filled with love for all God's people"? God showers us with His love and His Spirit helps us show that love to others. Think of someone hard to love and find a way to love them this week.

Colossians 1:1-14

Verse to Remember:
Love your neighbor as yourself. Leviticus 19:18



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Prayer for the Week

Lord Jesus Christ, in Your deep compassion You rescue us from whatever may hurt us. Teach us to love You above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves ; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Walking Together in the Word

July 14–July 19, 2025

This devotional material is based on the Bible readings for Sunday, July 20.

Proper 11

The Gospel: Luke 10:38–42

At the Home of Martha and Mary

38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. 40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Devotion on the Gospel

"Don't just sit there, do something!" Famous words from a coach, a teacher, a boss, a parent. Maybe you've heard that said to you. Maybe you have said it to someone else. "Don't just sit there, do something!"

It's interesting, when you look at this Gospel text, Jesus is saying just the opposite: "Don't just do something, sit there!"

Jesus is over for dinner and Martha is cooking and cleaning and prepping for the meal. This is important! It's Jesus who is the guest, after all! Things have to be just right! And as she's tugging open the cabinets, pulling out her best recipes, and whipping up a meal, Martha notices that her sister isn't helping. She isn't helping at all. In fact, Martha looks over and sees Mary at the feet of Jesus, just sitting there, listening to Jesus talk. "Lord! Tell her to help me!"

Jesus' response: "Oh Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better." Jesus has clarified our priorities for us. There is only one thing worth being concerned about, and that one thing isn't bustling around the kitchen, or our work, or any number of other things that take priority in our lives. It's sitting at Jesus' feet, soaking in every word He has spoken, receiving His gifts and grace, and growing in our relationship with Him.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

What is the "one thing" that is needed? How do we receive that one thing?

Do you have a list a mile long today? Before you tackle it, take some time to soak up God's Word, and take your worries to Him in prayer.

ONLY ONE THING IS NEEDED . . .

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Three men appear with a promise for Abraham and Sarah. Read Genesis 12:1-5, Gen. 15:1-4, Gen. 16:1-3, and Gen. 17:15-21 to see what made this promise so incredible.

What made us enemies of God, separated from Him? How did God bring us back into a loving relationship with Him?

Take some time to talk and think about the mystery made known to us: Christ our Savior, who lives in us.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 18:1-10

The Three Visitors

18 The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. 2 Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

3 He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. 4 Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. 5 Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant." "Very well," they answered, "do as you say."

6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread."

7 Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. 8 He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

9 "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him. "There, in the tent," he said.

10 Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him.

The Epistle: Colossians 1:21-29

21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— 23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

24 Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. 25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— 26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

28 He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. 29 To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

The Psalm: Psalm 27:7-14

Hear my voice when I call, Lord;

be merciful to me and answer me.

8 My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"

Your face, Lord, I will seek.

9 Do not hide your face from me,

do not turn your servant away in anger;

you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me,

God my Savior.

10 Though my father and mother forsake me,

the Lord will receive me.

11 Teach me your way, Lord;

lead me in a straight path

because of my oppressors.

12 Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,

for false witnesses rise up against me,

spouting malicious accusations.

13 I remain confident of this:

I will see the goodness of the Lord

in the land of the living.

14 Wait for the Lord;

be strong and take heart

and wait for the Lord.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Psalm 27 reminds us to call out to our God in times of need. We do not need to fear—the Lord is on our side.

*Verse to remember:
Psalm 27:14*

BE STRONG AND
TAKE HEART AND
WAIT FOR THE LORD.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

As you read this text, jot down some of the responsibilities that become a "yoke that presses hard." Then underline the words of the text that share the peace and joy that come from focusing on the "one thing needful."

The Hymn: One Thing's Needful *LSB* 536

One thing's needful; Lord, this treasure
Teach me highly to regard.
All else, though it first give pleasure,
Is a yoke that presses hard!
Beneath it the heart is still fretting and striving,
No true, lasting happiness ever deriving.
This one thing is needful; all others are vain—
I count all but loss that I Christ may obtain!

How were Mary's thoughts devoted
Her eternal joy to find
As intent each word she noted,
At her Savior's feet reclined!
How kindled her heart, how devout was its feeling,
While hearing the lessons that Christ was revealing!
All earthly concerns she forgot for her Lord
And found her contentment in hearing His Word.

Wisdom's highest, noblest treasure,
Jesus, is revealed in You.
Let me find in You my pleasure,
And my wayward will subdue,
Humility there and simplicity reigning,
In paths of true wisdom my steps ever training.
If I learn from Jesus this knowledge divine,
The blessing of heavenly wisdom is mine.

Nothing have I, Christ, to offer,
You alone, my highest good.
Nothing have I, Lord, to proffer
But Your crimson-colored blood.
Your death on the cross has death wholly defeated
And thereby my righteousness fully completed;
Salvation's white raiments I there did obtain,
And in them in glory with You I shall reign.

Therefore You alone, my Savior,
Shall be all in all to me;
Search my heart and my behavior,
Root out all hypocrisy.
Through all my life's pilgrimage, guard and uphold me,
In loving forgiveness, O Jesus, enfold me.
This one thing is needful; all others are vain—
I count all but loss that I Christ may obtain!

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Faith + Life Connections

Make a list of everything that needs to be done today. What's on the list? Talk about the importance of balancing the work that needs to be done with spending time in God's Word and prayer. If you haven't already, add "Jesus time" to your list!

Luke 10:38-42

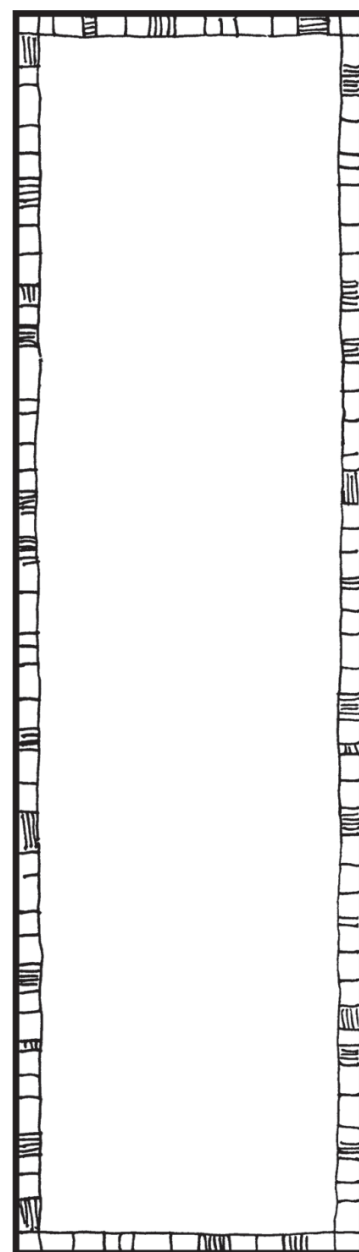
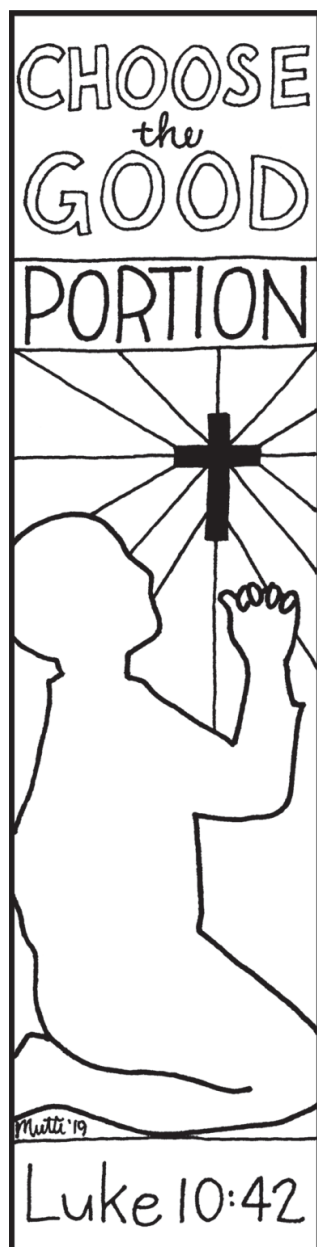
Share a time when someone made a promise, but didn't keep it. How did you feel? We don't always keep our promises, but God does! God kept His promise to send Abraham and Sarah a child. God kept His promise to send us a Savior. We can trust God to keep all His promises!

Genesis 18:1-10

Talk about what it means to "wait on the Lord." God invites us to pray to Him with confident hope, trusting that God will do what is best for us at the right time. Write Psalm 27:14 on cardstock and decorate it. Work to memorize it this week.

Psalm 27:7-14

Verse to Remember:
Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. Psalm 27:14



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Prayer for the Week

O Lord, grant us the Spirit to hear Your Word and know the one thing needful that by Your Word and Spirit we may live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Walking Together in the Word

July 21–July 26, 2025

This devotional material is based on the Bible readings for Sunday, July 27.

Proper 12

The Gospel: Luke 12:22–34

Do Not Worry

22 Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. 24 Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! 25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why about the rest?”

27 “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 28 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! 29 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. 30 For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

32 “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Devotion on the Gospel

“Look down!” That’s the call of the devil. Look down to earthly things. That’s where you should focus. That’s what you should look at. Look down!

Our God has a different idea . . .

“Look up!” Look up to God with a heaven-focused faith. Don’t look down at the earthly things that seem to fill us with anxiety and worry and dread. Don’t worry about what you will eat or what you will wear. I will take care of you, God says! Don’t follow Satan’s refrain and look down. Look up to God with a heaven-focused faith.

Look up! And when you do, you will see home—heaven. It’s the place we long for, the place we hope for, the place that has been prepared for us by our Lord. You will see home.

Look up! And when you do, you will see the Father and how He provides for you. Day in and day out: loving, caring, guiding, guarding, protecting. Look up and you will see the Father.

Look up! And when you do, you will see a cross. It’s a reminder that God has provided a Savior—a Savior who died and rose and ascended. And one day He will take you to your heavenly home.

Look up with a heaven-focused faith. Look up to your heavenly home. Look up to your heavenly Father providing. Look up to Jesus forgiving.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

Who cares about you even more than you care about yourself? Who has invited you to come to Him with your burdens and lay them at His feet? Who actually has the power to do something about your needs? Trust Him.

Jot down some things that are weighing you down. Then give them over to Jesus in prayer.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

What example does Abraham give us as he prays to God? See especially verses 27 and 32.

*God commanded circumcision as a sign of His covenant with Abraham to be a blessing to all families of the earth (See **Genesis 17** and **12:3**). Christ fulfilled that covenant. Now Baptism replaces circumcision. In Baptism, we are “buried” and “raised” with Christ, receiving forgiveness of sins and new life in Him.*

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 18:20–33

20 Then the Lord said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous 21 that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.”

22 The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the Lord. 23 Then Abraham approached him and said: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24 What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? 25 Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

26 The Lord said, “If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

27 Then Abraham spoke up again: “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, 28 what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?” “If I find forty-five there,” he said, “I will not destroy it.”

29 Once again he spoke to him, “What if only forty are found there?” He said, “For the sake of forty, I will not do it.”

30 Then he said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?” He answered, “I will not do it if I find thirty there.”

31 Abraham said, “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?” He said, “For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it.” 32 Then he said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?”

He answered, “For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it.”

33 When the Lord had finished speaking with Abraham, he left, and Abraham returned home.

The Epistle: Colossians 2:6–15

6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. 11 In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

The Psalm: Psalm 138

I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart;
before the “gods” I will sing your praise.
2 I will bow down toward your holy temple
and will praise your name
for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,
for you have so exalted your solemn decree
that it surpasses your fame.
3 When I called, you answered me;
you greatly emboldened me.
4 May all the kings of the earth praise you, Lord,
when they hear what you have decreed.
5 May they sing of the ways of the Lord,
for the glory of the Lord is great.
6 Though the Lord is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly;
though lofty, he sees them from afar.
7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life.
You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes;
with your right hand you save me.
8 The Lord will vindicate me;
your love, Lord, endures forever—
do not abandon the works of your hands.

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*What reasons does
the psalmist give for
praising God?*

*What reasons do
you have for
praising God today?*

*Verse to Remember:
Psalm 138:8*

YOUR LOVE,
LORD, endures
Forever

Notes, Thoughts, Questions

*There is nothing in
the world more
precious to
Christians than our
Savior, Jesus.*

*Pick one stanza to
pray or sing
together in
thanksgiving for
the gift of Jesus.*

The Hymn: Jesus, Priceless Treasure *LSB 743*

Jesus, priceless treasure,
Fount of purest pleasure,
Truest friend to me,
Ah, how long in anguish
Shall my spirit languish,
Yearning, Lord, for Thee?
Thou art mine,
O Lamb divine!
I will suffer naught to hide Thee;
Naught I ask beside Thee.

In Thine arms I rest me;
Foes who would molest me
Cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking,
Ev'ry heart be quaking,
Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash
And thunders crash;
Yet, though sin and hell assail me,
Jesus will not fail me.

Satan, I defy thee;
Death, I now decry thee;
Fear, I bid thee cease.
World, thou shalt not harm me
Nor thy threats alarm me
While I sing of peace.
God's great pow'r
Guards ev'ry hour;
Earth and all its depths adore Him,
Silent bow before Him.

Hence, all earthly treasure!
Jesus is my pleasure,
Jesus is my choice.
Hence, all empty glory!
Naught to me thy story
Told with tempting voice.
Pain or loss,
Or shame or cross,
Shall not from my Savior move me
Since He deigns to love me.

Evil world, I leave thee;
Thou canst not deceive me,
Thine appeal is vain.
Sin that once did blind me,
Get thee far behind me,
Come not forth again.
Past thy hour,
O pride and pow'r;
Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,
Leave thee now forever.

Hence, all fear and sadness!
For the Lord of gladness,
Jesus, enters in.
Those who love the Father,
Though the storms may
gather,
Still have peace within.
Yea, whate'er
I here must bear,
Thou art still my purest
pleasure,
Jesus, priceless treasure!

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Faith + Life Connections

Are you a worry-wart? It's so easy to worry about grades, health, friendships, money, etc., etc., etc.! Make a list of the things you tend to worry about. Take turns praying for one another's worries, giving them all over to Jesus. Then crumple up the paper, trusting that God is in control!

Luke 12:22-34

Abraham was persistent in His prayer to God. He also prayed humbly and in faith, admitting his own human sinfulness. God invites us to pray to Him. Talk about how we approach God in prayer. Are we also repentant? Persistent? Thankful?

Genesis 18:20-33

Celebrate the gift of Baptism! Bring out pictures, or share stories of when family members were baptized. Say a prayer of thanks to God for the forgiveness and gift of new life that God has given each of you in your Baptism.

Colossians 2:6-15a

Verse to Remember:
Your love, Lord, endures forever.
Psalm 138:8



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Prayer for the Week

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be attentive to the prayers of Your servants, and by Your Word and Spirit teach us how to pray that our petitions may be pleasing before You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

