

MARCH 22-28, 2020

A LIFE OF FAITH

Daily Worship Guide

HEARTS JOINED IN WORSHIP

This guide was prayerfully designed to help you continue to grow daily in your knowledge and love of God, as well as stay connected with your brothers and sisters in Christ during this time of separation.

Each day contains Scripture readings from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs, to give you a big-picture snapshot of God's character and love for His people throughout the whole Bible.

You'll also find Praise and Prayer prompts where you can choose a hymn, devotional song, or contemporary song to sing to the Lord. You can use the prayer prompt to pray for the specific area of focus that day.

These are suggestions to help you get going, but not rigid rules. The daily worship time is designed to be about 15 minutes long, but you can feel free to add to it! Sing a couple songs or spend more time in prayer.

Finally, we hope that you will share your experiences with one another. We have such an amazing opportunity to share what God is doing in our lives and encourage one another. Sharing how God is working through you, builds up the body of Christ and makes us all stronger in our faith.

Post your thoughts, stories, or videos on the Circle Family Facebook Group or email them to Thomas to be included in our weekly emails.

Grace and Peace,

Circle Church of Christ

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THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 6:1-22

When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. 3 Then the Lord said, “My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.”⁴ The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the

daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown. 5 The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. 6 The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. 7 So the Lord said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.”

8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

Noah and the Flood

9 This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. 10 Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. 11 Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence. 12 God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. 13 So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. 14 So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. 15 This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high. 16 Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit high all around. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. 17 I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. 18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons’ wives with you. 19 You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. 20 Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. 21 You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them.” 22 Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

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NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 5:1-48

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said: 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Salt and Light

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. 14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

The Fulfillment of the Law

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Murder

21 “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder,[a] and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister[b][c] will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’[d] is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell. 23 “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. 25 “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. 26 Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

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Adultery

27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’[e] 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Divorce

31 “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’[f] 32 But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Oaths

33 “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ 34 But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. 36 And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. 37 All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.[g]

Eye for Eye

38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’[h] 39 But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. 40 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. 41 If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Love for Enemies

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor[i] and hate your enemy.’44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

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PSALMS

Psalm 5:1-12

Listen to my words, Lord, consider my lament.
2 Hear my cry for help, my King and my God,
for to you I pray.
3 In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the
morning I lay my requests before you and wait
expectantly.
4 For you are not a God who is pleased with
wickedness;
 with you, evil people are not welcome.
5 The arrogant cannot stand in your presence.
6 You hate all who do wrong; you destroy those who tell
lies. The bloodthirsty and deceitful you, Lord, detest.
7 But I, by your great love, can come into your house;
in reverence I bow down toward your holy temple.
8 Lead me, Lord, in your righteousness because of my
enemies—make your way straight before me.
9 Not a word from their mouth can be trusted; their heart
is filled with malice. Their throat is an open grave; with
their tongues they tell lies.
10 Declare them guilty, O God! Let their intrigues be
their downfall. Banish them for their many sins, for they
have rebelled against you.
11 But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them
ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that
those who love your name may rejoice in you.
12 Surely, Lord, you bless the righteous; you surround
them with your favor as with a shield.

PROVERBS

Proverbs 1:24-28

But since you refuse to listen when I call
 and no one pays attention when I stretch out my
hand,
25 since you disregard all my advice
 and do not accept my rebuke,
26 I in turn will laugh when disaster strikes you;
 I will mock when calamity overtakes you—
27 when calamity overtakes you like a storm,
 when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind,
 when distress and trouble overwhelm you.
28 “Then they will call to me but I will not answer;
 they will look for me but will not find me,

DISCUSSION

Scripture never says Noah was perfect, yet it calls him righteous and one who found favor in the eyes of God. The Sermon on the mount explains what this looks like - obedience found in the heart as well as the action. Our response to God must be more than intention and must be more than action. Grace affects our whole being, and nothing is excluded.

In what ways to we obey God halfway?

What areas in your life do your heart, head, and actions need aligning in God's grace?

How can we live from God's grace instead of to attain it?

What do these passages teach us about God?

What do these passages teach us about ourselves?

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

Staying connected is so important during this time.

Please share something that has touched your heart through your time in God's word this week.

It will encourage your brothers and sisters and create a deeper connection with one another while we are apart.

Post your thoughts, favorite song or a short video at the Circle Family News Facebook Page, or email Thomas and we'll include in next week's email!



SING TO THE LORD

Take a moment to sing a devotional song to the Lord that is on your heart.



PRAY ALWAYS

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Prayer for neighbors and friends

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS

We would love for you to invite people you know to be apart of our daily worship and encouragement!

The Facebook Group is private so that you can share freely, but friends are welcome to join! Requests will be approved by the group moderators as they pop up!