

Weekly Scripture Readings July 28, 2024

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, instructed us to "stay in love with God" by worshipping, studying scripture, attending Communion, fasting and through public and private prayers. In order to help facilitate daily scripture reading and prayer, this insert contains readings for each day as well as a prayer for the week. The scriptures from Monday through Wednesday reference the readings for the prior Sunday, and Thursday through Saturday reference the scriptures for the following Sunday. We hope that these daily scripture readings and prayer will help you to deepen your relationship with God as we seek to live into our call to be disciples of Christ.

Numbers 14:17-20 (NRSV)

And now, therefore, let the power of the LORD be great in the way that you promised when you spoke, saying,
"The LORD is slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love,
forgiving iniquity and transgression,
but by no means clearing the guilty,
visiting the iniquity of the parents
upon the children
to the third and the fourth generation."
Forgive the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of your steadfast love,
just as you have pardoned this people, from Egypt even until now.'
Then the LORD said, 'I do forgive, just as you have asked'

John 9:1-3, 6-17, 33-39 (NRSV)

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him.... When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my

eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So, they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.... If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.'

Ephesians 3:14-21 (NRSV)

For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Psalms 14 (NRSV)

Fools say in their hearts, 'There is no God.'

They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;
there is no one who does good.

The LORD looks down from heaven on humankind
to see if there are any who are wise,
who seek after God.

They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse;
there is no one who does good,
no, not one.

Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers
who eat up my people as they eat bread,
and do not call upon the LORD?

There they shall be in great terror,
for God is with the company of the righteous.

You would confound the plans of the poor,
but the LORD is their refuge.

O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion!
When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people,
Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, July 29

Psalm 37:12-22
2 Samuel 11:14-21
Philippians 4:10-20

Tuesday, July 30

Psalm 37:12-22
2 Samuel 11:22-27
Romans 15:22-33

Wednesday, July 31

Psalm 37:12-22
2 Chronicles 9:29-31
Mark 6:35-44

Thursday, August 1

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Exodus 2:23-24
Ephesians 5:1-6

Friday, August 2

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Exodus 3:16-25
2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Saturday, August 3

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Exodus 4:1-9
Matthew 8:14-17

Prayer for the week: O Father of lights, from whose word of truth we have been born as first fruits of your creatures: make us quick to listen and slow to speak, that the word implanted in us may take root to nourish all our living, and that we may be blessed in our doing and fruitful in action. Amen.

Next Sunday: The scripture readings for Sunday, August 4th are Exodus 3:1-7, 10, 13-15; Job 9:1-11; Romans 12:9-21 and Matthew 16:21-28. Next week we will begin a new worship entitled Three Simple Questions, and Phillip Ortega will deliver the message looking at the question Who is God? but delving into who God is not. Next week is a traditional worship service. Even though it is the first Sunday of the month, we will not be receiving communion. That will happen on August 11. But we will be doing a blessing of the backpacks in preparation for school beginning on Wednesday.

Questions to help you prepare: What does it mean that God says "I Am" when asked for a name? What are some of the things you may have been told about God that you do not find helpful? What are some conceptions of God that you do find helpful? What is your response when someone tells you they don't believe in God?

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