



05/2016

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DEVOTIONAL JOURNAL

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Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

EPHESIANS 3:20-21 (ESV)

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**EPHESIANS 3:20-21 (ESV)**

*Also available online at [www.cefc.org.sg](http://www.cefc.org.sg)*



# MEMORY FOCUS

FROM EPHESIANS (ESV)

2016

## JANUARY

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us in Christ with every  
spiritual blessing in the heavenly places...

EPHESIANS 1:3

## FEBRUARY

...even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that  
we should be holy and blameless before Him.

EPHESIANS 1:4

## MARCH

In love He predestined us for adoption as sons  
through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will.

EPHESIANS 1:5

## APRIL

For by grace you have been saved through faith.  
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,  
not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

## MAY

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than  
all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,  
to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all  
generations, forever and ever. Amen.

EPHESIANS 3:20-21

## JUNE

I, therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner  
worthy of the calling to which you have been called...

EPHESIANS 4:1

## JULY

...with all humility and gentleness, with patience,  
bearing with one another in love...

EPHESIANS 4:2

## AUGUST

...eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

EPHESIANS 4:3

## SEPTEMBER

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

EPHESIANS 6:10

## OCTOBER

Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able  
to stand against the schemes of the devil.

EPHESIANS 6:11

## NOVEMBER

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood,  
but against the rulers, against the authorities,  
against the cosmic powers over this present darkness,  
against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

EPHESIANS 6:12

## DECEMBER

...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer  
and supplication. To that end keep alert with  
all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints...

EPHESIANS 6:18

# FORE BY SENIOR PASTORS 2016 WORD

BACK TO THE ESSENTIALS IN 2016!



The more you grow as a Christian, the more you realise you have to return to the bare essentials of Christian living. Perhaps it is the discipline of **starting again**, the devotion to **persevere** or the decision to **stop doing something** so that we can start doing something.

Spiritual Growth is a choice!

This year, the Lord gave us Acts 20:28 as a spiritual anchor towards Covenant EFC's Golden Jubilee in 2028.

*“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which He obtained with His own blood.” (Acts 20:28)*

**T**hese are the bare essentials God wants us to return to in the midst of increasing messiness in the world and the glaring weaknesses within the Church:

- **Pay Attention to Yourself.** We seem to have grown up thinking in this order: Jesus first, others second and yourself last! While there is some validity in this order of living, there is also a flaw. If we do not take care of ourselves, we cannot take care of others. Our mission as a Church is clear: To raise authentic disciples and intentional disciplemakers of *A Certain Kind*. This is why we led the *Covenant Groups* to do a spiritual audit on their *Authentic Discipleship and Intentional Disciplemaking (A.D.I.D.)* growth journey and action plan – to find out where we are spiritually so that we can chart our growth intentionally. It is not only to grow as an individual but to grow as a community. There is rampant nominalism and powerlessness within the Church! It's time to let the Spirit break those chains over our lives and let the Word of God bring forth newness. Pay attention to yourself – not selfish narcissism but spiritual realism!
- **Pay Attention to Your Family.** The family institution is under attack. No one can take better care of your family than you. You are the 24/7-best-children-and-youth disciplemaker. The Church will complement and support you. The truths of God must be taught, caught and made real in times of distraught. So use this journal in family devotions and take proactive steps and establish a household of faith!
- **Pay Attention to Others.** Your spiritual growth will be capped until you give of yourself to care for others. In the process, you will discover what God is saying through the Word. And the ultimate test is: **What are you going to do about it?** Without obedience, there is no growth. Without growth, you cannot impart. Without impartation, there is no legacy. Would you want to be remembered as someone who lived for himself or lived for others?

For 2016, the book of Ephesians is the overarching frame for the daily devotional. This Epistle was written a few years after the account in Acts 20. It points us to the essential Doctrines (Eph 1-3) and Discipleship (Eph 4-6) of our lives. As we plough through this fascinating Epistle, we will be challenged to anchor our lives in Jesus as the only Lord and Saviour and to pay allegiance to the only Master and King of our lives. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! (Eph 1:2)

Rev Tony Yeo and Rev Tan Kay Kiong

# GUIDE TO USING THIS DEVOTIONAL JOURNAL

## 1 Prepare your heart in God's presence

- Select a fixed time (preferably in the morning before you begin your day) and a quiet place where you can be alone and undisturbed.
- Observe a moment of silence as you acknowledge God's presence. Centre down.
- Begin with a song of worship. Meditate on the lyrics even if you are unfamiliar with the tune. (Refer to the list of worship songs provided.)
- Ask God to open your heart to hear Him.

*The English Standard Version (ESV) is the default Bible version translation unless otherwise specified.*

## 2 Allow God to S.O.A.P. you with His Word and Spirit

- Scripture – Take your time to meditate on the Scripture passage for the day. Pause and mull over words and phrases that stand out to you.

- **O**bservation – Jot down significant insights and reflections from the passage you have read. You could use the guiding questions provided. *The “Deeper Reflection” section is to aid your contemplation of the Scripture. It is not to replace your own observation, for the Holy Spirit illuminates the Scripture to you as you seek Him earnestly.*
- **A**pplication – Note down a specific and practical commitment to God's Word for you. Is there a command to obey, a sin to avoid, an example to follow, or a principle to live out? Where appropriate, share your devotional entry with someone.
- **P**ray – Bring your heartfelt response to God in prayer.

### WHAT'S NEW IN 2016?

Suggested prayers are included twice weekly on Mondays and Wednesdays, to serve as an aid to those who may find them helpful in their prayer response. On each Friday, there is a prayer pointer for the leaders (Covenant Group leaders, ministry leaders, Board and staff) whom God brings to your mind to pray for.

*Examining your life is essential in your faith journey. Your redeemed life as a disciple of Christ deserves careful examining. May you take root and bear fruit in Him!*



# WORSHIP SONGS

MAY/JUNE

## THANK YOU FOR THE CROSS

### Verse

Thank You for the cross, the mighty cross  
 That God Himself should die for such as us  
 And every day we're changed into  
 Your image more and more  
 Yes, by the cross we've truly been transformed

### Chorus

And we're so amazed  
 And we give You praise  
 That You would save us at such a cost  
 We're so amazed  
 And we give you praise  
 For the power of the cross

Mark Altrogge  
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## WORTHY IS THE LAMB

### Verse

Thank You for the cross, Lord  
 Thank You for the price You paid  
 Bearing all my sin and shame  
 In love You came  
 And gave amazing grace

Thank You for this love, Lord  
 Thank You for the nail pierced hands  
 Wash me in Your cleansing flow  
 Now all I know  
 Your forgiveness and embrace

### Chorus

Worthy is the Lamb, seated on the throne  
 Crown You now with many crowns  
 You reign victorious!  
 High and lifted up, Jesus Son of God  
 The Darling of heaven crucified  
 Worthy is the Lamb!  
 Worthy is the Lamb!

Darlene Zschech  
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## HOLY SPIRIT

### Verse 1

There's nothing worth more that will ever come close  
 Nothing can compare  
 You're our Living Hope  
 Your Presence

### Verse 2

I've tasted and seen of the sweetest of loves  
 Where my heart becomes free  
 And my shame is undone  
 In Your Presence, Lord

### Chorus

Holy Spirit You are welcome here  
 Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere  
 Your glory God is what our hearts long for  
 To be overcome by Your Presence, Lord

Bryan Torwalt | Katie Torwalt

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## SPIRIT TOUCH YOUR CHURCH

### Verse 1

Lord we need Your grace and mercy  
 We need to pray like never before  
 We need the power of Your Holy Spirit  
 To open Heaven's door

### Chorus

Spirit touch Your church  
 Stir the hearts of men  
 Revive us Lord  
 With Your passion once again  
 I want to care for others  
 Like Jesus cares for me  
 Let Your rain fall upon me  
 Let Your rain fall upon me

### Verse 2

Lord we humbly come before You  
 We don't deserve of You what we ask  
 But we yearn to see Your glory  
 Restore this dying land

Kim Bollinger

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## DIVINE EXCHANGE

### Verse

My heart is captivated Lord by You alone  
 Captured by the awesomeness of You alone  
 Melted by the grace and mercy  
 You have shown  
 I stand in wonder

I reach to You, the One Who makes the blind eyes see  
 Who breaks the chains of sickness with authority  
 Restoring what was broken  
 So we may fly again

### Chorus

I live to worship You  
 I breathe to worship You  
 All of my days  
 Your face I'll seek

For as I worship You  
 You lead me to that place  
 To that place  
 Of divine exchange

Lara Martin

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## DEEPER IN LOVE

### Verse 1

There is a longing only You can fill  
 A raging tempest only You can still  
 My soul is thirsty Lord  
 To know You as I'm known  
 Drink from the river  
 That flows before Your throne

### Chorus

Take me deeper  
 Deeper in love with You  
 Jesus hold me close in Your embrace  
 Take me deeper  
 Deeper than I've ever been before  
 I just want to love You more and more  
 How I long to be deeper in love

### Verse 2

Sunrise to sunrise  
 I will seek Your face  
 Drawn by the Spirit  
 To the promise of Your grace  
 My heart has found in You  
 A hope that will abide  
 Here in Your presence  
 Forever satisfied

Ed Kerr | Geoffrey Cuellar | Paul Baloche | Samuel Hoffman

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## THE POWER OF THE CROSS

### Verse 1

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day  
 Christ on the road to Calvary  
 Tried by sinful men  
 Torn and beaten then  
 Nailed to a cross of wood

### Verse 2

Oh to see the pain written on Your face  
 Bearing the awesome weight of sin  
 Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed  
 Crowning Your bloodstained brow

### Chorus 1

This the power of the cross  
 Christ became sin for us  
 Took the blame, bore the wrath  
 We stand forgiven at the cross

### Verse 3

Now the daylight flees  
 Now the ground beneath  
 Quakes as its Maker bows His head  
 Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life  
 Finished the vict'ry cry

### Verse 4

Oh, to see my name written in the wounds  
 For through Your suffering I am free  
 Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live  
 Won through Your selfless love

### Chorus 2

This the power, of the cross  
 Son of God, slain for us  
 What a love, what a cost  
 We stand forgiven at the cross

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

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## THIS IS AMAZING GRACE

### Verse 1

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness  
 Whose love is mighty and so much stronger  
 The King of Glory, the King above all kings

### Verse 2

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder  
 Who leaves us breathless in awe and wonder  
 The King of Glory, the King above all kings

### Chorus

This is amazing grace  
 This is unfailing love  
 That You would take my place  
 That You would bear my cross  
 You would lay down Your life  
 That I would be set free  
 Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me

### Verse 3

Who brings our chaos back into order  
 Who makes the orphan a son and daughter  
 The King of Glory, the King of kings

### Verse 4

Who rules the nations with truth and justice  
 Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance  
 The King of Glory, the King above all kings

### Bridge

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
 Worthy is the King who conquered the grave  
 Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
 Worthy is the King who conquered the grave

Jeremy Riddle | Josh Farro | Phil Wickham

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## HEART OF A SERVANT

Standing in awe of your grace  
 Setting my feet in your ways  
 Entering into your presence  
 To behold you face to face

God of all heaven and earth  
 Holding me in your embrace  
 Unfailing love that surrounds me  
 Oh God I stand amazed

My Jesus my lord  
 You're the love of my life  
 Wherever you go  
 Wanna' be by your side  
 No longer I  
 But Christ living in me  
 Serving you for all eternity

My eyes set on you  
 In this race that I run  
 No longer my ways  
 Let your will be done

Make me a servant  
 My heart's ever true  
 Clinging to the cross  
 I'll follow you  
 I'll follow you

© City Harvest Church

## OPEN THE SKY

### Verse 1

Father to all the fatherless  
 Anchor to all the anchorless  
 In You we are unshakeable  
 You know exactly where we stand  
 You will refresh the weary land  
 You are the spring of hopefulness

### Pre-chorus

No love compares to the love that You have  
 No one compares to You Lord

### Chorus 1

Open the sky  
 The heavens shining  
 Light up Your fire upon our city  
 Break every chain  
 You are our freedom  
 Reign over us as we come  
 (And touch our spirits now)

### Verse 2

Shelter to all the shelterless  
 Armour to all the armourless  
 You are our tower of defence  
 You see the depths of all our hearts  
 You will restore the missing parts  
 You are the One who makes things new

### Chorus 2

Open the sky  
 Forgiveness flowing  
 Rescue our souls from sin and darkness  
 We stand in awe  
 Reveal Your glory  
 Reign over us as we come  
 (And touch our spirits now)

Adi Winardi | Andre Hermanto | Andriyanto | Billy Simpson | Daniel Sigarlaki | Kevaz Lucky | Sidney Mohede  
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# THE CHURCH BEYOND

## A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES BEGINS WITH PRAYER

BY ESTHER LAI, MISSIONS PRAYER CORE TEAM

*When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptising them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them** to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

– Matthew 28:17-20

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e all know that the Great Commission in Matthew 28:17-20 is a commandment from the resurrected Christ to His disciples to go and make disciples of all nations.

And how are they to do it? They are to baptise them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey. The Great Commission is not just about soul winning; it is about the even more significant journey of discipling. This is like a thousand-mile journey that will continue until Christ returns. Any journey begins with the first step, and the first step which the disciples took was prayer. The giving of the Great Commission is associated with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. In Acts 1:13-14, the disciples went to the upper room where they continually devoted themselves to prayer.

*"And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they*

*"My heart for missions was born out of prayer. The stance of our heart is very central to the work of missions."*

*were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were **devoting themselves to prayer**, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers." Acts 1:13-14*

Then at Pentecost, all experienced the violent rushing of wind and there were tongues of fire that rested on those present (Ac 2:1-4). From thence on, huge numbers of souls were saved (Ac 2:47).

My journey into missions started with that same conviction to pray. Although I was not really into missions, I felt that since soul-winning and discipleship represent the heart of God, I needed to pray myself into God's heart, to feel what He feels and to love what He loves. It has been nearly five years now since I joined missions prayer. We are a small faithful army and we have seen God multiply the work of missions in Covenant EFC to proportions beyond our imaginations. My heart for missions was born out of prayer. The stance of our heart is very central to the work of missions. Look at what happened on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:37, after Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost:

*"Now when they heard this **they were cut to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'"*

In the same manner, as you join the church to pray for missions, I am convinced that God's love will pierce your heart and you will ask like the rest of the apostles, "What shall we do?". That is a breakthrough in the heart.



SUNDAY, 1 MAY 2016

■ SCRIPTURE

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■ OBSERVATION

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■ APPLICATION

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■ PRAYER

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THE PAST WEEK

REVIEW

What was my high point and my low point for the week?

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What gave me life and what drained me?

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How was the Spirit of God at work?

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**REFLECT**

What is one key thing that God said to me this week  
in light of what has happened?

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**RESPOND**

What is one thing I need to do in light of what God is saying?

**COMMIT IN PRAYER**


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**FAMILY DEVOTIONAL**

May 2016 – Week 1

**ONLY ONE WAY**

**Jesus is the only way to God the Father.**

*Scripture: Ephesians 2:18; John 14:6*

**ACTIVITY BITE**

Look around your house. Count the number of ways that a guest or a thief could get into your house from the outside.

**CHAT TIME**

Q1: Among the many possible ways to enter your room, how should your friends go in?

Q2: Why do you not want your friends to enter your room from other entrances?

Q3: Why does God the Father say that the only way to Him is by believing in Jesus?

**LEARNING POINT**

There is only one God that man should worship. However, many people believe there are many other gods in this world. Some people also believe that there are many ways or things to worship, and that all these will lead to the same god. This is not what the Bible says. Jesus teaches us that in the beginning God created a man and a woman to worship Him. Due to sin, they were separated from God. In His great love, Jesus came to die on the cross to take away our sins so that we can be with God again. Believing in Jesus is the only way back to God. There is no other way, not even by doing good deeds or being rich or famous.

**ACTION POINT**

Write down on pieces of paper the different ways people say we can go back to God (or go to heaven). After that, crumple up the paper and throw them away. This action shows that you do not believe these ways will bring you to God. On another piece of paper, write down the verse John 14:6 and stick it on a wall.

**PRAYER POWER**

(Ask your children to pray after you.)

Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the cross to take away our sins. Thank You for making the way for us to go back to God the Father again. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



MONDAY, 2 MAY 2016

## What I Want: Give Me!

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Genesis 29:30-30:24

### ■ OBSERVATION

What caused Rachel to make the demand in verse 1?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

Rachel was unhappy! Despite Jacob loving her more than Leah (v.30), which was proven by his willingness to serve her father Laban for another seven years to have her as his wife, Rachel was angry that she was barren. “Give me children, or I shall die!” (v.1) was what Rachel demanded of Jacob after her sister Leah, who was also Jacob’s first wife, gave birth to her fourth son. Why did she make such a demand? Didn’t she know that only God could open her barren womb, which Jacob himself acknowledged (v.2)? Although barrenness for a woman during those times was a painful experience as it was contrary to God’s blessing, Rachel’s struggle was ultimately a struggle with God who had closed her womb. She couldn’t bear to wait in the long silence from God. Out of her desperation, Rachel gave Jacob her maid, Bilhah, who gave birth to two sons on her behalf. And this started a “competition” with Leah, who also gave her maid, Zilpah, as a wife to Jacob. Imagine, Rachel had to share her husband with three other women and co-parent the many children who were not from her womb. In trying to get what she wanted, she instead added more complications and pain to her life. And she remained barren until God opened her womb much later. *Mothers: Be careful not to have the “Give me...or I shall die” attitude. Learn to wait even if God is silent.*

### ■ APPLICATION

How should I manage the wants and demands in my life in a godly way?

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### ■ PRAYER

*Dear Lord Jesus, I acknowledge that I can be very self-focused and demanding at times. Teach me to learn to wait for Your timely answer and not to take matters into my own hands. Grant me the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that I may know You better (Eph 1:17). Amen.*





TUESDAY, 3 MAY 2016

## What I Do: Wait on God

### ■ SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 1:1-2:11

### ■ OBSERVATION

What differences do you observe between Hannah's and Rachel's responses to barrenness?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

Hannah was another barren woman who experienced similar problems as Rachel. She, like Rachel, was loved by her husband (1 Sa 1:5 – she received double portion of the sacrifice), but she was “deeply distressed” (1 Sa 1:10) because her rival, Elkanah’s second wife Peninnah “provoked her grievously to irritate her year after year” (1 Sa 1:7). Hannah “wept and would not eat” (1 Sa 1:7). Hannah was depressed! Instead of making demands of her husband, Hannah “prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly” (1 Sa 1:10) and “continued praying” (v.12) in the temple. How long she prayed and cried, we don’t know. All we know is that she poured forth her heart before God and waited on Him to answer. God remembered her, and in due time and she gave birth to Samuel (vv.19b, 20). Hannah’s song to God (1 Sa 2:1-11) revealed her secret in overcoming her depression. Her view of God was larger than the difficult situation she faced. Basically, **she knew God!** She knew God as one who is holy, who knew all things and who is sovereignly in control. Therefore she could wait and worship God. *Mothers: If you are deeply distressed by the difficulties with your children, give God your tears and wait upon Him. He is more than able to help you overcome – in His perfect time!*

### ■ APPLICATION

List down the difficulties you are facing right now and take time to commit them to God.

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### ■ PRAYER

*Write a prayer to God as your response from your meditation on and application of the Scriptures.*

### PRAYER POINTERS

Give thanks:

Pray for leaders:

Pray for significant people:

Pray for those in need:

Pray for self:



WEDNESDAY, 4 MAY 2016

## How I Give: With Faith!

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:41-44

### ■ OBSERVATION

Why did Jesus commend this woman?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

This poor widow – insignificant, rejected and unimportant in the Jewish culture – caught the eye of our Lord Jesus. What did Jesus see in her? Beyond giving “two small copper coins, which make a penny” (v.42), Jesus saw her giving her all: She was “poor, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on”. She could have kept one copper coin for herself, after all, God would understand that she needed it. She could have reasoned that her contribution was so small, and God probably didn’t need it anyway. But no, she gave the only two small copper coins she had to God, quietly and with wholehearted devotion! That was what Jesus saw in her, but even deeper, He saw her **faith!** She was able to give fully because she believed that God would provide for her need. This is in great contrast with the scribes who focused on their outward form and the rich people who gave out of their abundance, and not of their hearts (Mk 12:38-41). *Mothers: What will Jesus see in you? Will He see the same kind of abandonment of self and wholehearted faith like He saw in this woman?*

### ■ APPLICATION

What are the areas in my life that I need to surrender fully to God?

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### ■ PRAYER

*Dear God, grant me the faith to believe that You are always good. Help me to surrender to Your sovereign will. Amen.*

### PRAYER POINTERS

Give thanks:

Pray for leaders:

Pray for significant people:

Pray for those in need:

Pray for self:



THURSDAY, 5 MAY 2016

## What God Wants: A Repentant Heart!

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Luke 7:36-50

### ■ OBSERVATION

Contrast the attitude and actions of the woman with that of Simon's.

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

What a shocking scene! A woman, only known as a sinner, entered the home of Simon, a “pious” Pharisee. What she did subsequently shocked him even further: She poured an alabaster flask of ointment on Jesus’ feet and wiped them with her hair, weeping all the way. Jesus knew the thoughts of Simon, so He told Simon a parable about forgiveness – the one who had a bigger debt being cancelled would love the one who cancelled his debt more. In similar measure, this woman sinner knew the depth of her sin and her great need for grace, and came to Jesus to express her love. “Both Simon and the woman owed a debt they could not possibly repay. Though Simon’s sin was less obvious, it was the more dangerous. He was like a man who was following a map he was certain would lead to heaven – but when heaven came down and walked into his house, he didn’t even know it. The woman, on the other hand, realised just how lost she had been. Forgiven much, she loved much. She found heaven at the feet of Jesus.”<sup>1</sup> Indeed, what God wants from us is a repentant heart, acknowledging the depth of our sinfulness and returning to Him to embrace His forgiveness. *Mothers: Model a repentant heart toward God before your children.*

### ■ APPLICATION

What are the areas in your life that you need to ask God to forgive?

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### ■ PRAYER

*Write a prayer to God as your response from your meditation on and application of the Scriptures.*

#### PRAYER POINTERS

**Give thanks:**

**Pray for leaders:**

**Pray for significant people:**

**Pray for those in need:**

**Pray for self:**

<sup>1</sup> Ann Spangler & Jean E. Syswerda, *Women of the Bible* (Zondervan, 2007), pg 318



FRIDAY, 6 MAY 2016

## What God Does: He Remembers!

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Genesis 30:22-24; Isaiah 49:14-16

### ■ OBSERVATION

What promises did God make to us in these verses?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

God remembered Rachel! She was barren and bitter about her barrenness. We read earlier this week, about how she demanded for an answer from her husband and tried to resolve her situation by her own effort. After Leah gave birth to her sixth son and a daughter, verse 22 tells us: “Then God **remembered** Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb.” “God remembered Rachel” doesn’t mean that He was so busy that He had forgotten about her, and then one day He suddenly remembered that she existed. God is not like that. These words express “His love and compassion toward His people. They remind us of God’s promise to never abandon us or leave us without support or relief”<sup>2</sup>. Verses 15 and 16 speak of our God as a mother who nurses her child. Therefore, He will never forsake us nor forget us. He will always remember us because “He has engraved us on the palms of His hands.” *Mothers: Whatever challenges you are going through in life right now, God knows because He has been with you all this while. Hold on to Him as He journeys with you. He hears your cries for help.*

### ■ APPLICATION

How has God remembered you in your life journey?

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### ■ PRAYER

*Write a prayer to God as your response from your meditation on and application of the Scriptures.*

#### PRAYER POINTERS

**Give thanks:**

**Pray for leaders:**  
Assurance of being precious in God’s sight!

**Pray for significant people:**

**Pray for those in need:**

**Pray for self:**

<sup>2</sup> Ann Spangler & Jean E. Syswerda, pg 62



SATURDAY, 7 MAY 2016

## How God Gives: His Only Son!

### ■ SCRIPTURE

John 3:16-18; Ephesians 5:1-2

### ■ OBSERVATION

What do these verses tell us about God's relationship with us?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

For God **so loved** the world that He **gave** His only Son (v.16). Christ **loved** us and **gave Himself** (v.2). To love is to give, and to love deeply is to give sacrificially. That is what our God demonstrated for us – He gave His **one** and **only** Son because He loves us deeply! All mothers would have some experience of what it means to love deeply and give sacrificially for their children. No mother in her right mind will ever consider giving away the child whom she loved, nursed through the months and cared for through the years to someone else. Yet our God did for us what mothers would not do – He let His Son leave His presence to be on earth for 33 years and finally be led to die on a cross despised by men. On that cross of suffering and shame, the divine exchange took place: Jesus Christ took our wrath and we received God's forgiveness. Henceforth, we enter into a lifelong journey of knowing God (Jn 17:3). Only one thing is required of us to enter this journey of knowing God: Believe in Jesus! *Mothers: The best gift we can give our children is to pray for them to know God and to deepen their walk with God.*

### ■ APPLICATION

Take time to worship God for what He has done for you.

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### ■ PRAYER

*Write a prayer to God as your response from your meditation on and application of the Scriptures.*

#### PRAYER POINTERS

Give thanks:

Pray for leaders:

Pray for significant people:

Pray for those in need:

Pray for self:



SUNDAY, 8 MAY 2016

■ SCRIPTURE

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■ OBSERVATION

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■ APPLICATION

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■ PRAYER

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THE PAST WEEK

REVIEW

What was my high point and my low point for the week?

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What gave me life and what drained me?

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How was the Spirit of God at work?

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**REFLECT**

What is one key thing that God said to me this week  
in light of what has happened?

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**RESPOND**

What is one thing I need to do in light of what God is saying?

**COMMIT IN PRAYER**


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**FAMILY DEVOTIONAL**

May 2016 – Week 2

**CITIZENS OF HEAVEN**

**If we are children of God, our citizenship is in heaven.**

*Scripture: Ephesians 2:19*

**ACTIVITY BITE**

Look at maps or websites to search for the names of countries around the world. For every country, guess what its citizens are called. For example, the citizens of America are called Americans and those from the Netherlands are called Dutch.

**CHAT TIME**

- Q1: What benefits do you get by being a citizen of your country?  
Q2: The Bible says that Christians are citizens of heaven. What does that mean?  
Q3: How should we live our lives on earth while we wait to go to heaven?

**LEARNING POINT**

As citizens of a country, you can get good benefits like protection, good medical care, subsidised school fees and many others; much more than what a foreigner gets. When the Bible says that we are citizens of heaven, it means that we will get all the blessings that God wants to give, not just in heaven but on earth too. It also means that the country you are living in now is just a temporary place to live. So while you are living on earth, you must continue to walk in God's ways and share the Good News with others so that they can be citizens of heaven too.

**ACTION POINT**

Think of someone who is not a Christian. Start by praying for that person this week and ask God for an opportunity to invite that person to church.

**PRAYER POWER**

(Ask your children to pray after you.)

Dear God, thank You for making me a citizen of heaven. While I am on earth, help me to walk in Your ways always and help me to share the good news with my friends too. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



MONDAY, 9 MAY 2016

## Prisoner of Christ Jesus

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:1; 4:1

### ■ OBSERVATION

What is the significance of Paul calling himself “the prisoner of Christ Jesus” (Eph 3:1; 4:1)?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

Towards the end of Paul’s third missionary journey he said, “I must visit Rome also” (Ac 19:21). Having accomplished his “special apostolic mission” of “pioneer preaching”<sup>3</sup> of the Gospel and planting churches in eastern Europe (Ro 15:18-20), he set his face toward western Europe with its furthest end in “Spain” (Ro 15:23-24a). Paul sought to move his missions “headquarters” from Antioch to Rome for logistical reasons (Ro 15:24b). Paul did reach Rome, but in an unexpected manner – as a prisoner<sup>4</sup> (Ac 28:30-31). But this imprisonment turned out to be “for the greater progress of the gospel” (Php 1:12). Humanly speaking, Paul was a prisoner of Caesar, but he viewed himself as “the prisoner of Christ Jesus” (Eph 3:1). Paul “never did think or speak in purely human terms. He believed in the sovereignty of God over the affairs of men.”<sup>5</sup> For Paul it means “the whole of his life, including his wearisome imprisonment, was under the lordship of Christ”<sup>6</sup>. We all have our “prisons” in life – life conditions and circumstances that we cannot control or change. But we must learn to alter our perspective, to see ourselves in these circumstances as “the prisoner of the Lord” (Eph 4:1).

### ■ APPLICATION

What are the “prisons” in my life where I need to learn to see myself as “the prisoner of Christ Jesus”?

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### ■ PRAYER

*Lord, teach me and help me not to see or think of things in human terms, but to have the faith in You to see Your sovereign hand over all things. Help me to be able to live in the reality of being a “prisoner of the Lord” in life conditions and circumstances that I cannot control or change. Amen.*

### PRAYER POINTERS

Give thanks:

Pray for leaders:

Pray for significant people:

Pray for those in need:

Pray for self:

<sup>3</sup> John Stott, *The Message of Romans*, The Bible Speaks Today (IVP, 1994), 382

<sup>4</sup> Acts 21:15 – 28:31 gives an account of how Paul reached Rome as a prisoner of Caesar.

<sup>5</sup> John Stott, *The Message of Ephesians*, The Bible Speaks Today (IVP, 1979), 114

<sup>6</sup> John Stott, *Ephesians*, 114



TUESDAY, 10 MAY 2016

## Stewardship of God's Grace

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:1-9

### ■ OBSERVATION

How does Paul describe his ministry that God called him to in verses 2, 7 and 8?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

Paul was beginning to intercede for his readers (v.1), but “breaks off almost immediately in order to give an account of his distinctive ministry to the Gentiles and its place within the divine mystery that has been revealed to him”<sup>7</sup> (Eph 3:2-13). God gave Paul “two privileges”<sup>8</sup>: “a certain revelation” through which he came “to know something” (vv.3-6), and out of that “a certain commission” in which he was “to make something known” (vv.7, 9). Paul described his ministry as “grace given to me” (vv.2, 7, 8). This grace is a “gift” (v.7). In this, Paul had a “stewardship of God’s grace” (v.2) – a “solemn responsibility” that he was “not able to withdraw” from “but must fulfil it obediently”<sup>10</sup>. God requires His stewards to be faithful in what He has entrusted them with (1 Co 4:1-2). There are times when I wish I don’t have to teach God’s Word, because teachers “will be judged more strictly” (Jas 3:1, NIV). But I have to, because it is a stewardship of God’s grace entrusted to me to serve others. Let’s ask ourselves: What is the stewardship of God’s grace that God has entrusted to me? How conscious am I in being a faithful steward of this particular grace?

### ■ APPLICATION

What does it mean for me to be a faithful steward of God’s grace that has been entrusted to me?

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### ■ PRAYER

*Write a prayer to God as your response from your meditation on and application of the Scriptures.*

#### PRAYER POINTERS

Give thanks:

Pray for leaders:

Pray for significant people:

Pray for those in need:

Pray for self:

<sup>7</sup> Peter T. O’Brien, *The Letter to the Ephesians*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Apollos, 1999), 223

<sup>8</sup> John Stott, *Ephesians*, 115

<sup>9</sup> John Stott, *Ephesians*, 115

<sup>10</sup> Peter T. O’Brien, 227



WEDNESDAY, 11 MAY 2016

## Spiritually Rich in Christ

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:3-9

### ■ OBSERVATION

How does Paul describe the Gospel in verses 3 to 9?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

For “ages past” God had hidden “the mystery” which “has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets” and “made known” through the preaching of the Gospel (vv.3, 5, 8, 9). This “mystery” is “the mystery of Christ” (v.4), as “it centres on Christ”<sup>11</sup>. “But what it declares about Christ is that through Him and in Him, Jews and Gentiles are incorporated on equal terms in the same community” as one new humanity (v.6).<sup>12</sup> This is part of the Gospel – “the untraceable wealth of Christ”<sup>13</sup> (v.8). “In the gospel of Christ that came by revelation, there were vast treasure houses of His riches which had not been explored and depths which had not been plumbed, either by the apostle himself or any other Christian. His riches are infinite. So in revealing Himself, God had graciously given Himself to men and women, but He is beyond their comprehension, nor does He submit Himself to humankind’s intellectual or technical control.”<sup>14</sup> The boundless riches of Christ are found in Scripture, which can be known when “the Spirit of truth” gives illumination (Jn 16:13) – theological, spiritual and experiential knowledge that will only be “partial” until “the perfect comes” (1 Co 13:10). This is being spiritually rich in Christ.

### ■ APPLICATION

How active have I been in seeking to know the untraceable riches of Christ in the Gospel?

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### ■ PRAYER

*Father of glory, give me a great desire to seek the untraceable riches of Christ – the treasures of wisdom and knowledge that are hidden in Him.<sup>15</sup> Open the eyes of my heart through the Holy Spirit that I may see and grasp in reality such immense riches, because this is what You intend for me in Christ. Amen.*

### PRAYER POINTERS

Give thanks:

Pray for leaders:

Pray for significant people:

Pray for those in need:

Pray for self:

<sup>11</sup> John Stott, *Ephesians*, 122

<sup>12</sup> John Stott, *Ephesians*, 122

<sup>13</sup> Frank Thielman, *Ephesians*, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Baker, 2010), 213, 214

<sup>14</sup> Peter T. O'Brien, 242

<sup>15</sup> Colossians 2:3



THURSDAY, 12 MAY 2016

## Manifold Wisdom of God

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:8-11

### ■ OBSERVATION

What do you observe about “the manifold wisdom of God” in verses 8 to 11?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

It is God’s intention that “the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church” (v.10). Who makes known “the many complex facets of God’s wisdom”<sup>16</sup>? God Himself. The “manifold wisdom of God” is this: “The church as a multiracial and multicultural community is like a beautiful tapestry. Its members come from a wide range of coloured backgrounds. No other human community resembles it. Its diversity and harmony are unique. It is God’s new society. And the many-coloured fellowship of the church is a reflection of the many-coloured wisdom of God.”<sup>17</sup> But the Church is in a state where “every church in every place and at every time is in need of reform and renewal”<sup>18</sup>. All Christians at different levels of spiritual maturity form this Church. But “God has not abandoned His Church, however displeased with it He may be. He is still building and refining it”<sup>19</sup> – “I will build My church” (Mt 16:18). The Church “has a central place in God’s plan” – “the biblical centrality of the Church”<sup>20</sup>. And the audience of God’s manifold wisdom as shown “through the church” (v.10) is the “evil spiritual beings”<sup>21</sup> that oppose God, His purposes and His Church “in the heavenly realms” (Eph 6:10-12).

### ■ APPLICATION

What do I see in our Church as a display of God’s manifold wisdom?

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### ■ PRAYER

*Write a prayer to God as your response from your meditation on and application of the Scriptures.*

### PRAYER POINTERS

Give thanks:

Pray for leaders:

Pray for significant people:

Pray for those in need:

Pray for self:

<sup>16</sup> Frank Thielman, 215

<sup>17</sup> John Stott, *Ephesians*, 123

<sup>18</sup> John Stott, *Ephesians*, 126

<sup>19</sup> John Stott, *Ephesians*, 126

<sup>20</sup> John Stott, *Ephesians*, 126

<sup>21</sup> Frank Thielman, 216



FRIDAY, 13 MAY 2016

## Boundlessness in Being Bound

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:1-12

### ■ OBSERVATION

What do you observe about Paul's discipleship in verses 1 to 12?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

While bound in **prison**, Paul lived in “the boundless riches of Christ” (v.8, NIV) as “the prisoner of Christ Jesus” (v.1). Paul was bound for God’s **purpose**: proclamation to the Gentiles of “the mystery of Christ” (vv.4-6) and “the unfathomable riches of Christ” that display “the manifold wisdom of God” (vv.8-11). Serving God’s purpose is a God-given **privilege**, albeit in prison: “I was made a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given to me” (v.7a). This privilege of God’s sovereign grace was “given to me according to the working of His **power**” (v.7b). This mighty operation of divine power in Paul was “in God’s initial call” and “in the subsequent enabling”<sup>22</sup>. From the exalted cosmic reality (vv.9-11), Paul turned to “the most practical significance that it has for the everyday life of the Christian”<sup>23</sup>: our “access” to God in Christ with “boldness” and “confidence” (v.12) – God’s **presence**. “Boldness” is “freedom of speech”<sup>24</sup> – “the absence of fear or shame”<sup>25</sup>. “Confidence” is “very similar” to “boldness”, except that “it is more personal”<sup>26</sup>. Paul’s discipleship here is characterised by divine purpose, privilege, power and presence in prison. Boundlessness in being bound! A discipleship paradox.

### ■ APPLICATION

In what way is Paul’s discipleship paradox of boundlessness in being bound true in my life?

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### ■ PRAYER

*Write a prayer to God as your response from your meditation on and application of the Scriptures.*

#### PRAYER POINTERS

Give thanks:

Pray for leaders:

To know that God’s power is mightily working within them

Pray for significant people:

Pray for those in need:

Pray for self:

<sup>22</sup> Peter T. O’Brien, 239

<sup>23</sup> Francis Foulkes, *Ephesians*, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (IVP, 1989), 107

<sup>24</sup> Francis Foulkes, 107

<sup>25</sup> Francis Foulkes, 107

<sup>26</sup> Francis Foulkes, 107



SATURDAY, 14 MAY 2016

## “My Sufferings for You”

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:13; 2 Corinthians 4:16-17

### ■ OBSERVATION

What do you observe about Paul’s perspective on his sufferings in verse 13?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

Paul’s account of his apostolic ministry to the Gentiles in salvation history is framed as: “I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles” (Eph 3:1) and “my tribulations on your behalf” (v.13). Suffering tribulations is part of biblical discipleship. It should be expected, just as Paul and Barnabas in “strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith” reminded them that “through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God” (Ac 14:22). In serving God, we may be called upon to suffer for the sake of others. Suffering can be the direct result of our ministry to others, like in Paul’s case. Another perspective of suffering for the sake of others is the sufferings we go through in following Jesus, which may take many forms, and are themselves a form of ministry to others – by way of comfort, encouragement and identification or example. In this kind of suffering we become wounded healers. Paul asked his readers “not to lose heart at my tribulations for you”. This assumes that Paul himself did not lose heart. We too must not lose heart in our sufferings, through which others are blessed either directly or indirectly. For such sufferings are our “glory” (v.13; cf. vv.16-17; Ro 8:18).

### ■ APPLICATION

In what ways do I suffer for the benefit of others in my personal discipleship journey?

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### ■ PRAYER

*Write a prayer to God as your response from your meditation on and application of the Scriptures.*

### PRAYER POINTERS

**Give thanks:**

**Pray for leaders:**

**Pray for significant people:**

**Pray for those in need:**

**Pray for self:**



SUNDAY, 15 MAY 2016

■ SCRIPTURE

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■ OBSERVATION

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■ APPLICATION

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■ PRAYER

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THE PAST WEEK

REVIEW

What was my high point and my low point for the week?

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What gave me life and what drained me?

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How was the Spirit of God at work?

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**REFLECT**

What is one key thing that God said to me this week  
in light of what has happened?

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**RESPOND**

What is one thing I need to do in light of what God is saying?

**COMMIT IN PRAYER**


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**FAMILY DEVOTIONAL**

May 2016 – Week 3

**WE ARE THE CHURCH**

**The church is a group of believers who worship Jesus.**

*Scripture: Ephesians 2:21-22; 1 Corinthians 12:27; Colossians 1:18*

**ACTIVITY BITE**

If you were to design a church building, would you like it to look very modern or traditional? On a piece of paper, draw how you want your church building to look like.

**CHAT TIME**

Q1: According to 1 Corinthians 12:27 and Colossians 1:18, what is a church?

Q2: What is the purpose of a church?

Q3: What can the church do to make this world a better place to live in?

**LEARNING POINT**

Many people think that a church is a building where Christians go to have their Sunday services. But the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 12:27 and Colossians 1:18 that the church is a gathering of Christians when they come to worship God, pray, read the Bible and fellowship together. More than that, the church has a responsibility to do good deeds on earth like feeding the poor and taking care of orphans. It must share the love of Christ not just through words, but also through actions so that people will want to know who Jesus is.

**ACTION POINT**

Ask Jesus what your responsibilities are in church. These can be ushering or keeping the place clean. Also, ask Him how you can do good deeds in school.

**PRAYER POWER**

(Ask your children to pray after you.)

Thank You, Jesus, for calling us to be Your church. Help us to be responsible to share Your great love through good deeds. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



MONDAY, 16 MAY 2016

## God Our Heavenly Father

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:12-15

### ■ OBSERVATION

What do you observe about prayer in verses 12 to 15?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

It was in prison suffering “tribulations”, and in gaining “access” to God in Christ with “boldness” and “confidence” (vv.12-13) that Paul bowed his “knees before the Father” (v.14). “The more usual posture in Jewish and early Christian prayer was standing (Mk 11:25; Lk 18:11), although kneeling was not uncommon (Lk 22:41; Ac 21:5). The latter signified great reverence and submission, especially marking the humble approach of the worshipper who felt his need so keenly that he could not stand upright before God (cf. Ezr 9:5, 15)”<sup>27</sup> and “a sign of homage to the universal King”<sup>28</sup> (Isa 45:23; Php 2:9-10). Paul knelt before “the Father” to whom all “family groupings and classes of angels, good and rebellious alike” and all “basic structures of human relationships” “owe their origin” and “existence”<sup>29</sup> (v.15). “Father” is “a term of intimacy” “in the ancient world”<sup>30</sup>. God is our all-powerful and all-loving heavenly Father who, as a caring Creator, stoops down to feed the birds and clothe the grass (Mt 6:26, 30). How much more so to His children! Our Heavenly Father knows what we need even before we ask Him (Mt 6:8), and He gives only “what is good to those who ask Him” (Mt 7:11). We approach Him with such great assurance.

### ■ APPLICATION

How does it affect my life when I know the kind of Father God is to me?

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### ■ PRAYER

*Eternal God, my Heavenly Father, fill me with the Spirit of wisdom and revelation that I may know You as my Father just as Your Son knows You as His Father. And to trust in You as my ever loving and caring Father who gives only what is good for Your children, especially when going through difficult times, not knowing what You have in mind. Amen.*

### PRAYER POINTERS

Give thanks:

Pray for leaders:

Pray for significant people:

Pray for those in need:

Pray for self:

<sup>27</sup> Peter T. O'Brien, 255

<sup>28</sup> Peter T. O'Brien, 255

<sup>29</sup> Peter T. O'Brien, 256

<sup>30</sup> Peter T. O'Brien, 255



TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2016

## How Does God Give?

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:16; Philippians 4:19

### ■ OBSERVATION

What does the expression “that He would grant you according to the riches of His glory” (v.16a) tell us about God (cf. v.19)?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

We ought to approach God in prayer while being aware that He is our heavenly Father (Eph 3:14-15). God is our Father who desires and delights to give to His children – “that He would grant you” (v.16). God is a giving God. God invites us to ask Him in prayer because He wants to give to us. God intends prayer to be not just us asking Him, but also Him giving to us (Mt 7:7). Prayer is incomplete if it is only asking. And how does God give? He gives “according to the riches of His glory” (v.16; see a similar expression in Eph 1:18). Our Father is “the Father of glory” (Eph 1:17), and we His children are His precious and priceless possessions, redeemed by the blood of His Son (Eph 1:7) to “share in ‘the riches of His glory’ [Eph 1:18]”<sup>31</sup>. God’s glory is His “radiance or splendour, which conveys the ideas of the perfection of His character and activity”<sup>32</sup>. God’s glory “is often conjoined with power (Col 1:11) and paralleled with His goodness (Ex 33:22 with v.19)”<sup>33</sup>. And God’s “giving corresponds to the inexhaustible riches of that glory”<sup>34</sup>. God “gives as lavishly as only He can”<sup>35</sup>. In whatever ways God answers our prayers, they are always “according to the riches of His glory”.

### ■ APPLICATION

How does knowing that God gives according to the riches of His glory affect my practice of prayer?

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### ■ PRAYER

*Write a prayer to God as your response from your meditation on and application of the Scriptures.*

#### PRAYER POINTERS

Give thanks:

Pray for leaders:

Pray for significant people:

Pray for those in need:

Pray for self:

<sup>31</sup> Peter T. O'Brien, 256

<sup>32</sup> Peter T. O'Brien, 257

<sup>33</sup> Peter T. O'Brien, 257

<sup>34</sup> Peter T. O'Brien, 257

<sup>35</sup> Peter T. O'Brien, 257



WEDNESDAY, 18 MAY 2016

## Strengthened with Spiritual Power

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 4:16

### ■ OBSERVATION

What observations can you make about “power” in Ephesians 3:16?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

The “Holy Spirit” is a key theological motif in Ephesians, found in every chapter (Eph 1:3, 13-14, 17; 2:18, 22; 3:5, 16; 4:3-4, 30; 5:18-19; 6:17-18). In Paul’s first intercession for his readers, he prays for spiritual enlightenment (Eph 1:15-19). Now in his second intercession, he prays for spiritual empowerment (Eph 3:14-19): “to be strengthened with power through His Spirit” (v.16). The sphere for spiritual empowerment “according to the riches of His glory” is “the inner being” – something parallel to “the heart” (Eph 3:17), which is “the centre of one’s personality, the thoughts, will, emotions and whatever else lies at the centre of our being”<sup>36</sup>. It is the most important sphere of reality in us, because it is here in our hearts that Christ dwells (Eph 3:17) and where the Holy Spirit works in power towards transformation. It is here that we must guard with diligence above all else, for the heart “determines the course of your life” (Pr 4:23, NLT). It is of critical necessity that “our inner being is being renewed day by day” (2 Co 4:16). This is a primary purpose for our daily devotions, in which spiritual renewal takes place, and not merely a religious ritual or routine. Daily spiritual renewal calls for daily prayer for spiritual empowerment.

### ■ APPLICATION

How have I experienced being strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit in my inner person?

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### ■ PRAYER

*Father, pour out Your Spirit upon Your people, and grant to us a new vision of Your glory, a new faithfulness to Your Word, a new consecration to Your service, that Your life may grow among us, and Your kingdom come through Jesus Christ our Lord.<sup>37</sup> Amen.*

### PRAYER POINTERS

Give thanks:

Pray for leaders:

Pray for significant people:

Pray for those in need:

Pray for self:

<sup>36</sup> Peter T. O’Brien, 259

<sup>37</sup> *The SPCK Book of Christian Prayer* (SPCK, 1995), 409



THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2016

## My Heart, Christ's Home

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:16-17a

### ■ OBSERVATION

What is the theological relationship between verses 16 and 17a in Paul's prayer?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

The purpose of Spiritual empowerment in our inner person is: "Then Christ will make His home [‘dwell’, NASB] in your hearts as you trust in Him" (v.17, NLT). In their complacency and self-sufficiency, the church at Laodicea locked Jesus out of their hearts (Rev 3:14-17). But the King of kings and Lord of lords humbly knocks on the door of their hearts that He may "come in, and we will share a meal together as friends" (Rev 3:20, NLT) – that is, intimate communion. This can happen to us in our relationship with Christ. The Greek word for "dwell" means "to settle down somewhere"<sup>38</sup>, referring to "a permanent as opposed to a temporary abode"<sup>39</sup>. It is "a word made expressly to denote residence as against lodging, the abode of a master within his own home as against the turning aside for a night of a wayfarer who will be gone tomorrow"<sup>40</sup>. It means "always in the heart is the residence of its Master and Lord, who where He dwells must rule; who enters not to cheer and soothe alone but before all things else to reign"<sup>41</sup>. Spiritual empowerment is for continual enthronement of Jesus in our hearts as "Christ Jesus my Lord" (Php 3:8).

### ■ APPLICATION

What else will I do, besides praying for Spiritual empowerment, to let Christ continually dwell in my heart as my Lord?

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### ■ PRAYER

*Write a prayer to God as your response from your meditation on and application of the Scriptures.*

#### PRAYER POINTERS

**Give thanks:**

**Pray for leaders:**

**Pray for significant people:**

**Pray for those in need:**

**Pray for self:**

<sup>38</sup> John Stott, Ephesians, 135

<sup>39</sup> John Stott, Ephesians, 135

<sup>40</sup> John Stott, Ephesians, 136

<sup>41</sup> John Stott, Ephesians, 136



FRIDAY, 20 MAY 2016

## Knowing Christ's Infinite Love

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:16-19

### ■ OBSERVATION

What do you observe about love in verses 16 to 19?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

The result of Christ dwelling and reigning in our hearts through Spiritual empowerment is that we become “rooted and grounded in love” (vv.16-17). This love is “the love of God revealed in Christ and poured out into His people’s hearts by the Spirit (cf. Ro 5:5, 8)”<sup>42</sup>. This love “provides the motivating power that enables believers to love others”<sup>43</sup>. We love others out of God’s love for us (cf. 1 Jn 4:19). Our love for others is the fundamental evidence that Jesus is Lord in our hearts. “Love is the soil in which believers are rooted and will grow, the foundation upon which they are built.”<sup>44</sup> With love as “deep roots and firm foundations”<sup>45</sup> in our lives, we “have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ” (v.18, NIV). It is “as if Paul invited us to look at the universe – to the limitless sky above, to the limitless horizons on every side, to the depth of the earth and of the seas beneath us and said, ‘The love of Christ is as vast as that!’”<sup>46</sup> We can grasp this love only as the whole people of God “with varied backgrounds and experiences”<sup>47</sup>, who have many faults and are very far from what we ought to be.

### ■ APPLICATION

What does it mean for me to understand and grasp the love of God together with God’s people?

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### ■ PRAYER

*Write a prayer to God as your response from your meditation on and application of the Scriptures.*

#### PRAYER POINTERS

Give thanks:

Pray for leaders:

To know increasingly the infinite love of Christ

Pray for significant people:

Pray for those in need:

Pray for self:

<sup>42</sup> Peter T. O’Brien, 260

<sup>43</sup> Peter T. O’Brien, 260

<sup>44</sup> Peter T. O’Brien, 260

<sup>45</sup> John Stott, *Ephesians*, 136

<sup>46</sup> William Barclay, *The Letters to the Galatians and Ephesians*, The Daily Study Bible (Saint Andrew Press, 1976; TPI, 2004), 132

<sup>47</sup> John Stott, v 137



SATURDAY, 21 MAY 2016

## Filled with God's Fullness

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:16-19; 1:22-23

### ■ OBSERVATION

What do you observe about the fullness of God in verses 16 to 19 and Ephesians 3:22-23?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

With Christ dwelling in our hearts as Lord through Spiritual empowerment we are to be established in love (vv.16-17), so that we may “know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge” (v.18-19a). Christ’s love is “so great that one can never know it fully. We can never plumb its depths or comprehend its magnitude. No matter how much we know of the love of Christ, or how fully we enter into His love for us, there is always more to know and experience.”<sup>48</sup> This implies “that we cannot be as spiritually mature as we should be unless we are empowered by God to ‘grasp the limitless dimensions of the love of Christ’<sup>49</sup>. This knowing of Christ’s love “cannot be simply a mental exercise” or “intellectual reflection”<sup>50</sup>, but to “know in a personal way”<sup>51</sup> in a growing relationship with Christ towards being “filled with all the fullness of God” (v.19b), which is full spiritual maturity (Eph 4:13). The Church is already the fullness of God (vv.22-23), and also not yet; and thus, this remains the ultimate goal of Paul’s prayer. We are to become what we already are. This ought to be our highest prayer agenda, because God fulfills His purposes through us from the inside out.

### ■ APPLICATION

How do I respond to lofty divine intentions such as to know Christ’s love which surpasses knowledge and to be filled with all the fullness of God?

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### ■ PRAYER

*Write a prayer to God as your response from your meditation on and application of the Scriptures.*

#### PRAYER POINTERS

Give thanks:

Pray for leaders:

Pray for significant people:

Pray for those in need:

Pray for self:

<sup>48</sup> Peter T. O'Brien, 264

<sup>49</sup> Peter T. O'Brien, 264

<sup>50</sup> Peter T. O'Brien, 264

<sup>51</sup> Peter T. O'Brien, 265



■ SCRIPTURE

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■ OBSERVATION

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■ APPLICATION

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■ PRAYER

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THE PAST WEEK

REVIEW

What was my high point and my low point for the week?

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What gave me life and what drained me?

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How was the Spirit of God at work?

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**REFLECT**

What is one key thing that God said to me this week  
in light of what has happened?

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**RESPOND**

What is one thing I need to do in light of what God is saying?

**COMMIT IN PRAYER**


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**FAMILY DEVOTIONAL**

May 2016 – Week 4

**INCREASE OUR FAITH**

**God will give us the power to increase our faith in Him.**

*Scripture: Ephesians 3:16-17*

**ACTIVITY BITE**

Play some games with your family like arm wrestling, push ups or high jump to test your physical strength and see who does better.

**CHAT TIME**

- Q1: How can you increase your muscle strength if you want to win the next arm wrestling match?
- Q2: If faith can also grow in strength just like your muscles, how can you increase your faith in God?
- Q3: What is one area in which you have not fully trusted God to help you?

**LEARNING POINT**

God is the giver of faith. Faith helps us to believe that God will take care of us when we go to school or when we are sick. It also helps us to believe that He will give our parents jobs so that they can earn a living for the family. Just like muscles, faith in God can increase and we must always let it grow. Praying regularly, reading the Bible, doing what it says and doing good deeds are a few ways in which God can increase our faith. If we rely only on ourselves, we can get into problems we can't solve. So have faith in God and let it grow daily.

**ACTION POINT**

Pray to God and ask Him to help you believe that He will take care of all things, and give to Him the area you have not fully trusted Him with.

**PRAYER POWER**

(Ask your children to pray after you.)

Dear God, there are many things that I have not fully trusted You to help with. I'm sorry. Please help me grow in my faith. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



MONDAY, 23 MAY 2016

## What Is in Paul's Mind?

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:20-21

### ■ OBSERVATION

What does Paul have in mind in what he says about God in his closing doxology in Ephesians 1 to 3 (vv.20-21)?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

In Ephesians 1 to 3, praise (1:3-14; vv.20-21) and prayer (1:15-23; 3:14-19) frame the magnificent theological vision of the immense riches of God's grace in His calling of us in Christ to be His holy people, the Church (2:1-22; 3:1-13). Paul begins and ends with doxology. What does Paul have in mind when he praises God – “to Him be the glory” (v.21), for being “able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us” (v.20)? We often apply this verse to prayer in general, which is not incorrect, because Paul's description of God is true of Him at all times; but knowing what Paul is relating to in his description of God enables us to see something that is mind-blowing about God. What Paul has in mind is this: God is “able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think” in filling His Church with all His fullness (Eph 3:19). To be “filled with **ALL** the fullness of God”! What greater thing can we ever have? What greater thing can we ask of God? What greater thing can God give to us? And filling the Church that is so flawed in all her history with all His fullness? Yes, God is able to do it. And He will do it.

### ■ APPLICATION

How does Paul's vision of God in verses 20 to 21, that shapes his prayer, challenge me in what I ask from God?

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### ■ PRAYER

*O Glorious Holy Triune God, fill Your imperfect Church with the Spirit of the Father! Fill us with the Spirit of Christ! Fill us with the Holy Spirit! That the Church may be transformed into the image of Christ from glory to glory,<sup>52</sup> increasingly bearing the fruit of the Spirit<sup>53</sup> towards full maturity in Christ<sup>54</sup>, filled with all the fullness of God who fills all in all. Amen.*

### PRAYER POINTERS

Give thanks:

Pray for leaders:

Pray for significant people:

Pray for those in need:

Pray for self:

<sup>52</sup> 2 Corinthians 3:18

<sup>53</sup> Galatians 5:22-23

<sup>54</sup> Ephesians 4:13



TUESDAY, 24 MAY 2016

## More than Just Infinitely Powerful

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:20-21

### ■ OBSERVATION

What does verse 20 tell us about God and prayer?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

Prayer does not begin with us asking God, but with us understanding the kind of God He is. God “is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think” (v.20). This confidence is “the entailment of belief that God is omnipotent” to whom “there cannot be degrees of difficulty”<sup>55</sup>. But Paul is saying something more than that about God. “God is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, not only because He is powerful, but also because He is generous. He loves to give good gifts to His children [Mt 7:11]. To think of God in any other way is to demean Him; to think of God in this way is itself tantamount to a call to pray.”<sup>56</sup> “It is impossible to ask God for too much. His capacity for giving far exceeds His people’s capacity for asking – or even imagining.”<sup>57</sup> God answering us “beyond all that we ask or think” implies that God does not give only according to what we ask specifically. We can never adequately express in words our requests to God. God who knows our needs even before we ask Him (Mt 6:8) knows that oftentimes “we do not know how to pray as we should” (Ro 8:26). Our prayer may be just wordless “desire” and “sighing” before God (Ps 38:9).

### ■ APPLICATION

How is knowing God important to my understanding and practice of prayer?

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### ■ PRAYER

*Write a prayer to God as your response from your meditation on and application of the Scriptures.*

#### PRAYER POINTERS

Give thanks:

Pray for leaders:

Pray for significant people:

Pray for those in need:

Pray for self:

<sup>55</sup> D. A. Carson, *A Call to Spiritual Formation: Priorities from Paul and His Prayers* (Baker and IVP, 1992), 202

<sup>56</sup> D. A. Carson, 202

<sup>57</sup> F. F. Bruce, *The Epistles to the Colossians to Philemon and to the Ephesians* The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Eerdmans, 1984), 330



WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2016

## How God Answers Our Prayer

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:20-21

### ■ OBSERVATION

What does God being able “to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think” imply about how He answers our prayers (v.20)?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

The air-conditioners in my house are 20 years old. Two years ago, the one in my bedroom started behaving erratically, where it worked sometimes or not at all. So each time when we turned it on, we prayed that it would work. Then at one point, it seemed to me that it had stopped working completely. I casually asked God if He could provide me a specific sum of money to replace the air conditioners. It happened that a week later my airconditioners were due for servicing. I told the serviceman about the problem in my bedroom unit. He taught me a simple trick to get it work manually if it didn't start automatically. So, the problem was solved. I was so thankful to God that that was how He answered my prayer. A few days later, I received a cheque with the exact amount that I had casually asked God for. But I did not need that money anymore! There are much more important things that I have been asking God for which He does not answer me like He did in this incident. But in His sovereign freedom and wisdom, God in His own way and time will do “infinitely more than” (v.20, NLT) we ask or imagine.

### ■ APPLICATION

How have I grown to know God better through the ways He responds to my prayers?

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### ■ PRAYER

*God Almighty, Eternal and Infinite, grant to me that in whatever ways You answer my prayers, I will acknowledge Your sovereign freedom and wisdom. And that my heart will always be filled with this vision and passion: “To God who is able to accomplish infinitely more than we ask or think be the glory forever and ever”! Amen.*

### PRAYER POINTERS

Give thanks:

Pray for leaders:

Pray for significant people:

Pray for those in need:

Pray for self:



THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2016

## What Is My Greatest Preoccupation?

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:20-21; 1:6, 12, 14

### ■ OBSERVATION

What observations can you make about “glory” in verses 20 to 21, with Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

The word “glory” occurs eight times in Ephesians, and these are found only in chapters 1 to 3. The glory of God frames these three chapters. They begin with a doxology (Eph 1:3-14) – “Blessed be the God and Father” (Eph 1:3) interspersed with a threefold “to the praise of His glory” (v.6, 12, 14) and end with “to Him be the glory” (v.21). Capture the magnificent sweep in these verses from glory to glory! God is “the Father of glory” (Eph 1:17) who has redeemed us and made us “His inheritance” to share with Him “the riches of His glory” (Eph 1:18). This is the “glory of His grace” (v.6). When we ask God for His “immeasurably great”<sup>58</sup> blessings of “extraordinary value”<sup>59</sup> (Eph 1:15-21; 3:14-19), He generously gives us “according to the riches of His glory” (Eph 3:16). Here we see a person, Paul, whose greatest preoccupation in his life is the glory of God. Immersed with the glory of God, Paul sees his “tribulations” in his imprisonment for the sake of the Gentiles as their “glory” (Eph 3:13). This glory is “the eternal glory” in “the salvation which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Ti 2:10). Paul is like his Master, whose earthly life was defined by only one thing: “Father, glorify Your name” (Jn 12:28; 17:4).

### ■ APPLICATION

How do I want to make the glory of God the greatest preoccupation in my life?

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### ■ PRAYER

*Write a prayer to God as your response from your meditation on and application of the Scriptures.*

#### PRAYER POINTERS

Give thanks:

Pray for leaders:

Pray for significant people:

Pray for those in need:

Pray for self:

<sup>58</sup> D. A. Carson, 202

<sup>59</sup> D. A. Carson, 202



FRIDAY, 27 MAY 2016

## Where Is God's Glory Manifested?

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:20-21

### ■ OBSERVATION

What is the significance of God's glory "in the church and in Christ Jesus" (v.21)?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

"To Him be the glory" (v.21): "To give God glory is not to add something to Him; rather, it is active acknowledgement or extolling of who He is or what He has done."<sup>60</sup> God's glory is "in the church **and** in Christ Jesus" (v.21). God's glory "in the church" "cannot be separated from"<sup>61</sup> His glory "in Christ", because believers who form the Church are "in Christ", and the Church is the body of Christ (Eph 1:22-23; 4:12). Where the Church is Christ is. Paul's emphasis here is on "the church" as shown in this order: "in the church and in Christ". "As a community of the redeemed, both Jews and Gentiles, the church is the masterpiece of God's grace (cf. Eph 2:7). It is the realm of His presence and authority (Eph 1:22, 23; 2:21-22), the instrument through which His wisdom is made known to the spiritual powers in the heavenly realm (Eph 3:10)."<sup>62</sup> This is how God manifests His glory in the Church and in Christ. In the church, we see and are hit by each other's weaknesses and ugliness. But despite this reality, we must learn to see God's glory "in the church and in Christ" as a congregation or in our small groups.

### ■ APPLICATION

How does God's glory "in the church and in Christ" affect the way I look at fellow believers in church and relate with them?

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### ■ PRAYER

*Write a prayer to God as your response from your meditation on and application of the Scriptures.*

### PRAYER POINTERS

Give thanks:

Pray for leaders:

Vision of and passion for God's glory

Pray for significant people:

Pray for those in need:

Pray for self:

<sup>60</sup> Peter T. O' Brien, 268

<sup>61</sup> Peter T. O' Brien, 268

<sup>62</sup> Peter T. O' Brien, 268



SATURDAY, 28 MAY 2016

## God's Glory Is Always There!

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:20-21

### ■ OBSERVATION

What does it mean that God's glory in the Church and in Christ is "to all generations forever and ever" (v.21)?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

The glory of God "in the church and in Christ Jesus" is "to all generations forever and ever" (v.21). "To all generations" means in all history on earth. "Forever and ever" means at the consummation when God "will bring everything together under the authority of Christ – everything in heaven and on earth" (Eph 1:10, NLT) and throughout eternity. Ezekiel was "by the river Chebar among the exiles" (Eze 1:1) when God revealed to him His glory (Eze 1:4-28) – "the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the **LORD**" (Eze 1:28). So magnificent was that glory that Ezekiel fell on his face when he saw it. It was in Babylon, a pagan land of idolatries and immoralities, that God manifested His glory. It was theologically unthinkable and shocking for God's people then, because in those days, God's presence and glory dwelled in the temple in Jerusalem (1 Ki 8:10-13). God's glorious presence must be in a holy place. But now it was in an unholy place! God's people were in exile under divine judgment for their persistent unfaithfulness to God. But God's glory followed them in exile (cf. Eze 11:16). Despite the many failures and flaws of the Church, God's glory is always there – "in the church and in Christ Jesus".

### ■ APPLICATION

How does God's glory always being there in the Church and in Christ encourage me as a member of the body of Christ?

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### ■ PRAYER

*Write a prayer to God as your response from your meditation on and application of the Scriptures.*

### PRAYER POINTERS

**Give thanks:**

**Pray for leaders:**

**Pray for significant people:**

**Pray for those in need:**

**Pray for self:**



SUNDAY, 29 MAY 2016

■ SCRIPTURE

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■ OBSERVATION

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■ APPLICATION

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■ PRAYER

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THE PAST WEEK

REVIEW

What was my high point and my low point for the week?

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What gave me life and what drained me?

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How was the Spirit of God at work?

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**REFLECT**

What is one key thing that God said to me this week  
in light of what has happened?

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**RESPOND**

What is one thing I need to do in light of what God is saying?

**COMMIT IN PRAYER**


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**FAMILY DEVOTIONAL**

May 2016 – Week 5

**POWER TO KNOW GOD'S LOVE**

**God will give us the power to know His very great love for us.**

*Scripture: Ephesians 3:17-19*

**ACTIVITY BITE**

Have fun searching through the Guinness World Records website for interesting facts about the longest, biggest, highest, tallest and deepest things.

**CHAT TIME**

Q1: What are some of the facts that caught your attention?

Q2: Is it possible to measure God's love?

Q3: How do you know that God loves you very much?

**LEARNING POINT**

The Bible says that God loves us very much. However, it may not be easy for us to understand how great His love is. One way to get a glimpse of it is to compare it with some universal facts. For example:

- God's love is deeper than the deepest ocean;
- God's love is bigger than the biggest planet; and
- God's love is wider than the whole universe.

Even though God's love is beyond what we can imagine, He will never stop loving us. He will give us the power to know and receive this love with Jesus in our lives.

**ACTION POINT**

This is a good time to thank God for His marvellous love. Take a few moments to thank Him and sing a song of praise to Him.

**PRAYER POWER**

(Ask your children to pray after you.)

Dear God, thank You for loving me so much. Even though I cannot fully understand Your love, You will never stop loving me. But give me Your power to know this love a little bit more each day. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



MONDAY, 30 MAY 2016

## Growing onto Maturity

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:1-16

### ■ OBSERVATION

What are some key elements of growing into spiritual maturity as presented by Paul in verses 1 to 16?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

Verse 1 is the pivotal verse in Paul's letter where he "urges" us "to walk in a manner worthy of" (Eph 4-6) God's "calling" for us (Eph 1-3). Instead of exercising his apostolic authority to order his readers to live rightly, Paul appeals, urges and encourages them "in the context of friendship"<sup>63</sup> (cf. Phm 1:8-9). Verses 1 to 16 present a portrait of growing into maturity, and "set the stage for what follows in Ephesians 4:17 to 6:20"<sup>64</sup>. **Spirituality** – "walk" (v.1) – is most fundamental. It is a personal and daily "walk" with God, developing Christ-like character (v.2); not in isolation, but in **community** – with "one another" (v.2). "Significantly, relationships within the body of Christ, especially conduct characterised by harmony, is the first issue Paul addresses as an essential element in living consistently with"<sup>65</sup> God's calling. True spirituality in community produces the commitment to keeping "the **unity** of the Spirit" (vv.3-6). Unity is not uniformity, but is manifested in **diversity** – "to each one of us grace is given" (vv.7-10). And arising out of spirituality in community and unity with diversity is **ministry** (vv.11-16). The goal of ministry is **maturity** characterised by "the fullness of Christ" (v.13).

### ■ APPLICATION

Which key element about growing into maturity is of particular relevance to me and what do I need to do about it?

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### ■ PRAYER

*Lord Jesus, fill me with  
Your Spirit and grant me  
Your grace that I may  
be utterly one with You  
and grow to be like You.  
Amidst all the variety of  
worldly things around me,  
let the only thing I crave  
be unity with You. Be the  
magnet of my heart, and  
clasp me, press me, and  
unite me forever to Your  
scared heart. Amen.*

### PRAYER POINTERS

Give thanks:

Pray for leaders:

Pray for significant people:

Pray for those in need:

Pray for self:

<sup>63</sup> Frank Thielman, 251

<sup>64</sup> Peter T. O'Brien, 273

<sup>65</sup> Peter T. O'Brien, 276



TUESDAY, 31 MAY 2016

## Walking in Humility

### ■ SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:1-3; Philippians 2:5-8

### ■ OBSERVATION

What is “humility” like (v.2)?

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### DEEPER REFLECTION

Paul urges us to cultivate “four graces”<sup>66</sup>: humility, gentleness, patience, and forbearing love (v.2). It is very significant that Paul begins with humility. For out of humility comes forth progressively gentleness, then patience and then forbearing love. Humility “was much despised in the ancient world. The Greeks never used their word for ‘humility’ in a context of approval, still less of admiration. Instead they meant by it an abject, servile, subservient attitude, ‘the crouching submissiveness of a slave.’”<sup>67</sup> It is important to note that “not until Jesus Christ came was true humility recognised”<sup>68</sup>. Humility begins with seeing the humility of God in Jesus, who although He is God, laid aside His status of equality with God and emptied Himself (Phm 2:6-8) to become Jesus of Nazareth, a place that “was considered totally insignificant”<sup>69</sup> (Jn 1:45-46). Humility is, in the truest knowledge of ourselves, we become increasingly conscious of our sinfulness and unworthiness before God<sup>70</sup> and needing and living by His grace at all times. Seeing and knowing Jesus produces such self-knowledge expressed in “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” (Lk 5:8).

### ■ APPLICATION

What area(s) in my life regarding humility do I need to pay particular attention to?

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### ■ PRAYER

*Write a prayer to God as your response from your meditation on and application of the Scriptures.*

#### PRAYER POINTERS

Give thanks:

Pray for leaders:

Pray for significant people:

Pray for those in need:

Pray for self:

<sup>66</sup> Peter T. O'Brien, 273

<sup>67</sup> John Stott, *Ephesians*, 148

<sup>68</sup> John Stott, *Ephesians*, 148

<sup>69</sup> Herman Ridderbos, *The Gospel of John: A Theological Commentary* (Eerdmans, 1997), 88

<sup>70</sup> William Barclay, 135, 136



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