

Caught Off Guard?

*Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. . . . Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: "Watch!"* Mark 13:33-37 NIV

Have you ever been caught off guard?

On a rainy, blustery evening, right before a holiday, I was scheduled to help with a meeting. Because of the nasty weather, our team did not expect many people to attend. But right before it was time to open the doors and welcome any one brave enough to venture out, our territory manager burst through the door! She had come for a surprise evaluation. Immediately everything changed. We shifted gears and got busy.

Another time Rick and I were caught off guard was at home. After a hard day working outside on our acreage, in the heat, Rick and I each took a shower and put on our pajamas. We were tired, ready to spend a quiet evening watching a movie and trying to stay awake until it was over.

But a loud knock at the front door suddenly changed everything. We both jumped up out of our recliners. (Since we live in the country, people don't knock on our door unannounced.) We were a little embarrassed and checked each other's eveningwear. Then we tried to nonchalantly open the front door.

*"Are we interrupting you two?"*

*"Oh, no. Not at all. Come on in."*

I don't think the Lord ever wants me to be ashamed. But I do believe the Lord wants me to be more alert. Not drifting, but more ready.

There is a time to sleep, but not during the day.

And, of course, there is application in my spiritual life.

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Neva Whitney	Deuteronomy 18:1-20:20
Vintage Faith Church	Luke 9:28-50
Stillwater, Oklahoma	Psalms 73:1-28
	Proverbs 12:10

Love Lived Out Changes the World – 2

*Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other.* John 13:34-35 MSG

Two of Jesus' disciples, handpicked by Him, were from Jewish groups who would have nothing to do with each other. You could not have found two men of more diverse backgrounds, ideologies, or perspectives. Simon and Matthew would have just seen the world differently. Apart from Christ they would have hated each other, both thinking the other was the lowest of the low on earth. These are the men Jesus is telling to love one another! These are the men Jesus is telling "the way you love each other directly impacts the way the world understands who God is." That kind of love is revolutionary and undeniably from Christ. What do you think the world thought when Simon and Matthew lived out God's love for each other? (See Acts 2:42-46.) A Zealot and a tax collector in harmony following Christ . . . it would have been unbelievable!

God is not calling us to shallow, worldly love, the kind that ebbs and flows on a whim and our emotion. God is calling us to self-sacrificial, revolutionary love that the world sees and stops to say, "What's going on there? . . . How is that possible?" Because it's only possible as the love of God fills us to overflowing.

Is there anyone in your life who needs the love of God, but rubs you the wrong way? Who are the people you feel opposed to at your very core? Is it possible Jesus is calling us to love them so deeply it transforms their lives, changes the lives of those watching, and impacts eternity?

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Peter C. Steele	Deuteronomy 23:1-25:19
Coulee Rock Community Church	Luke 10:13-37
La Crosse, Wisconsin	Psalms 75:1-10
	Proverbs 12:12-14

Love Lived Out Changes the World

*Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other.* John 13:34-35 MSG

God's love is revolutionary! Sometimes it is easy for me to gloss over the true depth and power of God's design for love, both how God lavishes it on me and how we're to live it out. When Jesus was walking the earth, showing us what love looks like, He called 12 men to be His disciples to model for them how to live out the love He's created us for.

In John 13 He tells His disciples everyone will recognize them as His disciples. Everyone will see God in them when they see the love they have for each other. He's telling them, "The way you love each other directly impacts the way the world understands who God is."

Look at two of the men Jesus chose to demonstrate this love. One of His disciples was Simon the Zealot. Zealots were a fanatical, Jewish sect, a radical political group. Zealots believed the Jews needed to violently overthrow Roman rule, and they created what we would consider today to be a militia designed to do just that. They refused to pay taxes, and they attacked and murdered government officials, especially the hated tax collectors. Zealots eventually degenerated into a group of assassins.

Jesus chose Simon the Zealot, and He also chose Matthew the tax-collector! Tax collectors were required to collect a certain amount of taxes for Rome. Then they were allowed to collect money above that for their own personal "salary." They milked their Jewish brothers and sisters in order to line their own pockets. They were despised by Jews in general and loathed by the Zealots. Simply being a tax collector classified you as a "sinner" to Jews.

Are there any people groups you consider to be "sinners"?

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Peter C. Steele	Deuteronomy 21:1-22:30
Coulee Rock Community Church	Luke 9:51-10:12
La Crosse, Wisconsin	Psalms 74:1-23
	Proverbs 12:11

Steps of Good

*How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!* Romans 10:15 NLT

I recently came across this verse in a study I'm doing with my small group. It really challenged me because I saw it from a new and different perspective.

I've always thought about this verse in terms of evangelism or being on mission. I've never thought about it in terms of my everyday life. It caused me to ask myself some questions: "How do people perceive me when I walk into the room?" "What do my kids think when they hear the sound of my footsteps walking into the house?" "When they hear the sound of my feet, do they run and hide because they think I'll be mad at them for making a mess, or are they excited because I am going to tickle them?" What about my wife, my friends, and those whom I work with? When they hear my steps, what do they think I'm bringing? Is it good, or is it strife?

Jesus wants us to show His love to those all around us—we can be ones who bring the Good News in all situations! The challenge, however, is how are you perceived when people hear your steps? Does your love for Jesus resonate, or is it something else? Are you known to emulate Christ, no matter what the situation? Of course, we all have bad days and situations in life that might not seem "good." But the Good News of Jesus Christ never changes, and as we share that people will know the joy we have because Jesus Christ is in our life!

Think about this throughout the week. Are you a messenger of Good News?

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Tony D'Amico	Deuteronomy 26:1-27:26
The Rock Church	Luke 10:38-11:13
Draper, Utah	Psalms 76:1-12
	Proverbs 12:15-17

Let It Spill

*So I decided that I would not bring you grief with another painful visit. For if I cause you grief, who will make me glad? Certainly not someone I have grieved. That is why I wrote to you as I did, so that when I do come, I won't be grieved by the very ones who ought to give me the greatest joy. Surely you all know that my joy comes from your being joyful. 2 Corinthians 2:1-3 NLT*

Wait a minute. Paul needs them to be joyful so he can be joyful? Doesn't Paul already experience the joy of Christ so fully that he doesn't need to depend on others? Isn't Jesus enough for Paul? What about those worship songs where we sing "All I need is Jesus . . . "?

Actually, that's how God works. We need others. Remember in the garden when man was alone? "Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone'" (Genesis 2:18 NLT).

We find joy in Christ, but part of that is His joy coming through others. Paul wants the Corinthian church to experience the joy of following Christ, and he wants that joy to spill over on him.

The joy of Christ.  
Through others.  
Spilling over.

That means two things. We need other people for our own emotional health. We can't do it alone. And other people need you.

You. So keep yourself encouraged. Remind yourself of the Gospel. Spend daily time with Jesus, His word and prayer. As most of you have experienced, a good quiet time makes the whole day better. You feel more joyful.

But there's another reason.  
Others need you. And you need others.  
Joy. Let it spill.

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Spencer Bernard	Deuteronomy 28:1-68
Evergreen Churches	Luke 11:14-36
Bloomington, Minnesota	Psalms 77:1-20
	Proverbs 12:18

Sunday, April 7

Your LIFE!

*Wisdom calls aloud outside; she raises her voice in the open squares. She cries out in the chief concourses, at the opening of the gates in the city she speaks her words: "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? . . . Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make known my words to you." Proverbs 1:20-23 NKJV*

If God's words and wisdom are anything, they are **accessible**. And they are **essential**. Consider: "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God'" (Matthew 4:4 NKJV). "I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food" (Job 23:12 NKJV).

Question: do these two verses characterize your habits in reading the Bible? A practical way to demonstrate the priority of God's Word in your life is to read it *pre-prandial*, that is, "before you eat." And, besides reading it *daily*, read *through it yearly*. David Livingstone, a great missionary of the nineteenth century to Africa, read it through *twice* a year.

I read this on a bookmark: "The Bible contains light to direct you, comfort to console you, food to sustain you, wisdom teach you, fire to warm you. It's given to you in life, opened in judgment, and will endure forever. It is a mine of wealth, a river of pleasure, and a paradise of glory. Here heaven is opened, paradise is restored, hell's gates are disclosed. Its histories are true, its doctrines are holy, and its precepts are binding. Read it thoroughly, read it frequently, and read it prayerfully. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy, memorize it to grow. It involves the highest responsibility, and it will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents."

To which I add only this: Amen and amen!

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Tom Dunham	Deuteronomy 31:1-32:27
Cottonwood Community Church	Luke 12:8-34
Grand Forks, North Dakota	Psalms 78:32-55
	Proverbs 12:21-23

Ditch Work

*And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood. 1 Peter 2:4-5*  
*So then you are . . . of God's household . . . the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22*

I have been thinking about rocks lately, as thousands of large, highway grade rocks were dumped in front of our house last spring, then pushed and maneuvered into a ditch along the front of our property. The neighborhood association was taking care of the erosion problem that threatens the road we live on. We are told "this is a 25-year fix." But it looks terrible. The neighbors are upset, as the rocks are a stark contrast to their nicely kept, green lawns. We're working on a compromise.

In the meantime I began some landscaping last fall. As a new gardener, rock gardens are my specialty! Planting native grasses and hardy, drought-and-heat-resistant plants along the edge of our street, I also added some flat flagstone pieces to replace jagged rocks there, as well as maneuvered rocks to lie flat. And I discovered that rocks are unforgiving! Move them without due caution, and your finger gets smashed. They don't have any "give" to them—their shape is who they are.

It's interesting that the Bible describes us as "living stones . . . being built up as a spiritual house" and "being fitted together" to be a "dwelling of God in the Spirit." Having worked with rocks those weeks last fall, I realize this is not easy! The Church can only be "fitted together" as the Spirit directs. He knows the shape and size of each "living stone." Peter says, "And coming to Him as to a living stone . . . [we] are being built up as a spiritual house . . . ." Stones don't choose where they are put—but God knows just how to build them into His holy temple.

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Dotty Vanderhorst	Deuteronomy 29:1-30:20
Cornerstone Community Church	Luke 11:37-12:7
Lenexa, Kansas	Psalms 78:1-31
	Proverbs 12:19-20

Monday, April 8

Rest in Your Presence

*After the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing. 1 Kings 19:12*

One day I was thinking about how sometimes I am so hurried that I think, "I don't want to hear from God. I don't have time to stop and journal." Realizing how wrong that is, I ask God to forgive me. Then I read the above verse: the still small voice of God was found in the gentle wind.

Afterwards I read *Jesus Calling*: "Wait quietly in My Presence while My thoughts form silently in the depths of your being. Do not try to rush this process, because hurry keeps your heart earthbound" (page 276).

I can be slow to understand things, so God must be very obvious. I don't know, but it seems like God might be telling me to slow down. Rest in His Presence. I find myself arguing with God.

"But God, You have seen my schedule today . . . ."  
"Rest."  
"I don't have time to rest. I've got to go, life is calling."  
"Peace."  
"What peace? I'm too busy."  
"My peace."  
"But . . ."  
"Listen, quiet in Me."

And so I sit, quietly resting in God's presence. Open to hear what God has to say, but fine to just quiet my heart before God. I need to, you see, I have a busy day: "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer." This statement is attributed to Martin Luther.

Lord, Martin Luther's thinking is humanly irrational, but spiritually rational. I feel I need to rush and get started, yet You want me to be refreshed by You. Help me to slow down, listen, and rest in Your presence.

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Shirley Ferguson	Deuteronomy 32:28-52
Oakridge Community Church	Luke 12:35-59
Clarksville, Maryland	Psalms 78:56-64
	Proverbs 12:24

### Fitbit Spirituality

*Listen, my son, and be wise, and set your heart on the right path.*  
*Proverbs 23:19 NIV*

Once, when I was a kid, my family went to church at a drive-in theater. My dad pulled up, put the speaker on his partially rolled-down window, and we sat quietly through the service. We were on vacation, and it was Sunday. As always, we were at “church.” I don’t remember missing church a single time during my childhood.

I don’t know that I’m quite as adamant about church attendance as my dad. (It’s a little hard to tell since my church-skipping opportunities are limited as a pastor.) However, I do appreciate his commitment to be faithful in a small thing. It reminds me of Daniel.

In Daniel’s time, the king issued a decree that for thirty days no one could pray to any man or god except the king, under penalty of death by lions. Instead of praying privately, silently, or just taking a month off, Daniel went to his window and prayed right where everyone could see and hear him. He stayed his course.

These little commitments we make are important, as they help set our course. To stay on course, it is important to stick to such commitments. However, we must keep in mind that God’s desire is that our *hearts* are set on a course of following him. Daniel wasn’t just a man who was committed to pray three times a day. Rather he was a person whose whole life was set on a course of following God. In the same way, God isn’t concerned about our Fitbit spirituality—consisting of our consecutive days of Bible reading or number of minutes of prayer. As helpful as such spiritual commitments can be, they aren’t the same as the bigger goal. God wants our hearts.

**Submitted by:**  
Steven L. Nelson  
The Rio Church  
El Paso, Texas

**One-Year Bible Reading**  
Deuteronomy 33:1-29  
Luke 13:1-21  
Psalm 78:65-72  
Proverbs 12:25

Thursday, April 11

### Somebody Pays

*For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. . . . But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6-8*

I was on vacation with our wider family in a rental house in Ocean City, New Jersey, when I noticed there was toilet paper in the bathroom when we arrived. I was grateful. This would never have occurred to me as a child. Toilet paper was something that was just always there. But as an adult I was thankful that the agency that leased the house had started us off with at least a few rolls—that meant they had paid to buy and stock it for us.

What I didn’t know as a child is that somebody always pays. If you are lucky as a child, you don’t think about that. Kind and responsible grown-ups pay for the things you need and bring them into the home. I remember the shock of having to buy my first tube of toothpaste in college!

Not much is free—somebody pays. Companies pay to give away “free” prizes and treats. “Free” concerts have sponsors. I didn’t guess as a child that somebody owns every square foot of land in our country, including “public land.” As kids we assumed the woods and creeks we found close to our home were ours for the taking. Private property signs were few. Now I know the “common ground” in our present neighborhood—mulch trail, creek, forest—is really owned by the neighborhood (which pays our son for its mowing).

So it’s not surprising that somebody pays for our salvation: “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). Our salvation is *not* free. It’s been paid for. The removal of our sins had a price tag—death. But Jesus paid that. And the Father wants us to enter in as good children, gratefully receiving it!

**Submitted by:**  
Dotty Vanderhorst  
Cornerstone Community Church  
Lenexa, Kansas

**One-Year Bible Reading**  
Joshua 3:1-4:24  
Luke 14:7-35  
Psalm 80:1-19  
Proverbs 12:27-28

### Simplify

*One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him. When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn’t receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.” Then he took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them. Mark 10:13-16 NLT*

Sometimes it’s good to simplify.

Growing up, I liked a punk rock band called the Suicide Commandos. They had a song called “Complicated Fun.” I love that title. Why? Because those two words are so strange together. I can’t think of a fun activity that is better with more complexity. Fun is best kept simple.

Sometimes that’s true with our faith.

Jesus never told His disciples to keep kids away from Him. They complicated things by assuming there was a hierarchy. Kids? They go to the back of the line. But Jesus doesn’t play those kind of games. He doesn’t play favorites, so He corrects them in a way that had to shock them. My paraphrase: “Hey, guys, don’t think of these kids as less. Think of them as more. Look at them as your teacher, your example of faith.”

What makes these kids our examples? Simplicity. Kids don’t ponder theological issues or the big questions of life. They don’t doubt. They believe and they love. Simple.

Adults can’t always afford such simplicity. Life is complex. Scripture is deep with details and nuances. But when it’s time to refresh your soul, remember these kids. Remember what Jesus said.

Simplify. “Jesus loves me, this I know.”

Learn from the kids.

Simplify.

**Submitted by:**  
Spencer Bernard  
Evergreen Churches  
Bloomington, Minnesota

**One-Year Bible Reading**  
Deuteronomy 34:1-Joshua 2:24  
Luke 13:22-14:6  
Psalm 79:1-13  
Proverbs 12:26

Friday, April 12

### Love-scarred Hands

*See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands. Isaiah 49:16 NIV*

Jesus will never forget us. Why is that? Because all He needs to do is look at His hands. They bear the scar marks of His love for us. Those nail prints are permanent, a forever reminder of His love for us, of the price He paid—for us. Not because we are worthy: I’ve gone to church my entire life and have lived a “good life,” yet I am so unworthy of Jesus’ death on the cross. He didn’t die because we are worthy. He died because He loves us. Jesus died for our sins: “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

It was your sins, my sins, that put Jesus on the cross. Our sins that put those scars on His hands. There was no other way for us to commune with God—there had to be a sacrifice. Blood had to be shed. Jesus paid the price. He bears the scars. My scars, my blood, my death—Jesus took my place. Such an unequal exchange.

Thank You, Jesus, for Your death on the cross for me, unworthy as I am. Thank You, for the constant reminder of Your love—Your love-scarred hands. Thank You that we are engraved on the palms of Your hands. Make that truth real in my life today.

**Submitted by:**  
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**One-Year Bible Reading**  
Joshua 5:1-7:15  
Luke 15:1-32  
Psalm 81:1-16  
Proverbs 13:1

Billboards

*For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. Romans 8:13 ESV*

I have driven across Wyoming about 50 times. During my most recent trip, I noticed a number of DUI billboards. A marketing campaign was designed to provide sobering reminders of the consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol. The billboards featured a sad mug shot with these captions: “Is this how you want to be remembered?” or “Think this is bad? Wait until you learn you killed someone,” or “Your license. Your dignity. Your job. Gone,” or “Think this is humiliating? Try explaining it to your kids.”

I think drinking and driving is a terrible idea. But, as I drove across Wyoming, I had a lot of time to meditate on these billboards. I realized an anti-DUI campaign is an easy campaign because most people are in agreement that it is a really bad idea.

However, *any* of our sins can wreck our lives. Romans 8:13 says, “For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live” (ESV). This verse makes it abundantly clear. If we live according to the flesh (practice sin), that road leads to death. As Christians, our sins were forgiven at the cross. Praise the Lord! Sadly, Christians can also drink and drive (and wreck lives). *Any* of our sins can have the same effect.

Imagine driving across Wyoming and seeing billboards telling us about the dangers of looking at pornography, sexual immorality, gossiping, telling a lie, stealing from work, disobeying our parents, materialism, or having an unrestrained temper in conflict. Imagine seeing a billboard with a mug shot and one of the above captions for one of those sins!

Let’s all be quick to repent of *any* sin.

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Josh Whitney	Joshua 7:16-9:2
The Rock Church	Luke 16:1-18
Draper, Utah	Psalms 82:1-8
	Proverbs 13:2-3

Jesus Knew

*Jesus knew that the Father had given everything into His hands, that He had come from God, and that He was going back to God. John 13:3 HCSB*

John 13 begins with a time loaded with meaning for the Jews: the Passover Festival. The Farewell Discourse of Jesus begins during this time of remembrance and identification for the people of Israel. The very moment that defined their nation, their salvation from Egypt, was at hand to be remembered. The very moment that would mark the formation of a new people under Jesus the Messiah was at hand to be revealed.

John 13:1-11 is often remembered for two things: foot washing and the love of the Lord. Jesus washed the disciples’ feet in symbolic identification with Jewish ritual purity, but also as a future sign of purification in Him. He humbly stooped into the grit and mire of humanity to wash His disciples’ feet as a sign of the wholeness and completeness of His love.

These are beautiful truths, but the main point of the passage revolves around the word *know*. In Greek *oida* is to *know*, and the word is used four times in the passage. The first time Jesus knew His hour had come (verse 1). The second time Jesus knew the Father had given Him all things, and that He came from God and was going back to God (verse 3). The third use is Jesus’ admission to the disciples that they will not understand, but will know later (verse 7). Finally, Jesus knew who would betray Him (verse 11). One of the central pieces of John’s gospel is the identity of Jesus Christ as one of movement—He is *from God*, here *as God*, and going back *to God*—as one with God who has been given all things.

In many ways, we erroneously see Jesus as a hapless victim of an unholy alliance between the Jews and the Romans, victimized and brutalized. We often fail to think that **Jesus knew** all of this was going to happen, and His every step was laden with meaning, truth, and love.

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Andrew D. Roberts	Joshua 11:1-12:24
Awaken Church	Luke 17:11-37
Jacksonville, Florida	Psalms 84:1-12
	Proverbs 13:5-6

What Is He Worth?

*... a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. Matthew 26:7 ESV*  
*... and [Judas] said, "What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. Matthew 26:15 ESV*

What a contrast! There was a woman who valued Jesus more than her most precious possession. The ointment she poured on Jesus’ head was “very expensive” and if sold could have provided for many people’s needs. She broke the jar and poured every drop onto Him. To the disciples and to others, this act seemed irresponsible, but not to Jesus.

On the other hand, there is Judas. He went to the religious leaders to ask what they would be willing to give him for delivering Jesus to them. Thirty pieces of silver. Wow! Judas had walked with Jesus for a few years. He had seen the healings, heard the teachings, experienced the miraculous. Judas knew Jesus like few others (well, like only 11 others)! Yet, here he is selling him out for next to nothing.

The contrast: a woman gave her all, Judas sold out for little. Obviously, Matthew wants us to see the contrast and cry out, “O Lord, teach me to love You like her!” Which will it be?

When the woman poured the ointment on Jesus, it was mere days before His trial and crucifixion. The scent probably lingered on His head and body during that time (being of high quality). Did He catch the scent sometimes while on trial, while on the cross, and did it bring Him some slight comfort? Even seemingly trivial things done for Jesus are a great fragrance to Him!

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Ed Russ	Joshua 9:3-10:43
Grace Community Church	Luke 16:19-17:10
Raleigh, North Carolina	Psalms 83:1-18
	Proverbs 13:4

Jesus – Prophet and Sender

*I assure you: Whoever receives anyone I send receives Me, and the one who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. John 13:20 HCSB*

Early at the Last Supper Jesus re-affirms His identity as Teacher and Lord to the disciples, and He also explains His act of washing the disciples’ feet. He has modeled this so that they may do the same for one another. Next Jesus affirms that He has chosen His disciples. Jesus knew those He had chosen, but He also knew who was going to betray Him, one who was permitted to be His disciple so that Scripture could be fulfilled. Here is where we see Jesus fulfill the role of the prophet.

Many think of prophets as those Biblical characters who weirdly predict the future through crazy portents and speeches. They are angry, scary, and mean. Such a view of prophets is misguided: prophets represent a long line of men and women who faithfully love God and His people by explaining difficult truths. They retrieve the Word of God and point people to fulfilling the Word—their role is one of love. The Father sent Jesus as the last, true prophet to point back to Scripture, fulfill Scripture as a sign of His authentic role as a prophet, and direct people ahead to follow God. The prophet brings people closer to God via his ministry.

Jesus does all three of these things: He points back to Scripture at the Last Supper (in Psalm 41:9: “The one who eats My bread has raised His heel against Me”); He sees such Scripture fulfilled with the betrayal of Judas; and He points to another who will be received as sent from Him.

This is crucial: *Jesus will send another, and whoever receives him, receives Jesus, and the one who receives Jesus receives Him who sent Jesus (verse 20)*. Jesus is prophetically speaking of the Holy Spirit, Third Person of the Trinity.

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Andrew D. Roberts	Joshua 13:1-14:15
Awaken Church	Luke 18:1-17
Jacksonville, Florida	Psalms 85:1-13
	Proverbs 13:7-8

Darkest Hour

*And it was night. John 13:30 HCSB*

Light and darkness is a major theme in the gospel of John. John has a unique take on the Last Supper because he does not describe any of the covenant sayings of Jesus at the meal. Instead he assumes his readers know them, and he focuses on the relationships among the disciples. John wants us to see relationships. He wants us to see them in clarity. So he attaches the theme of light and darkness. When Judas is revealed as the one betraying Jesus, night falls. Night is symbolic of sin and deeds of darkness. Jesus is preparing to teach His disciples both how to confront and to combat such darkness with the only weapon possible: belief in the Triune God.

Both the appointed and darkest hour for the Son has come. In fact, at the start of this passage Jesus says He is troubled in His Spirit (John 13:21). The Son, troubled. The Triune God is not devoid of human emotion, feeling, thought, or concern. Rather Jesus has a full grasp of the meanings and experiences along the spectrum of humanity. Jesus knew betrayal, not as an observer, but as the painful recipient of treachery. Jesus is about to experience a night of darkness.

What about you? Have you experienced a dark hour? In the midst of Jesus’ darkest hour He spends time illuminating the minds and hearts of His disciples regarding not only His identity as the light of the world, but also the joy and fellowship He has with the Father and the Spirit. This relationship permits Him to endure His darkest hour ultimately with joy and purpose, and He will point to our relationship with the Trinity as empowering us to do the same.

When trials and persecution attend your soul, do you remember the joy of your relationship with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the Triune God?

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Andrew D. Roberts	Joshua 15:1-63
Awaken Church	Luke 18:18-43
Jacksonville, Florida	Psalms 86:1-17
	Proverbs 13:9-10

Out of Envy

*For he knew that because of envy they had handed Him over. Matthew 27:18*

Pilate was asking the people who they wanted released during the Passover feast, Jesus or Barabbas. He knew that Jesus had been arrested because the chief priests and the elders were envious of Jesus.

Early on in Jesus’ ministry, the people had marveled at His teaching because He spoke with authority, not like their leaders. The scribes and Pharisees couldn’t stand the crowds marveling at Jesus and not them. People were changing their schedules to go out and see Jesus when He came to town. All throughout Jesus’ ministry on earth, everyone got loved on—except the Pharisees, Sadducees, and scribes. Jesus called out their hypocrisy time and time again. They said everyone must obey the law, yet they didn’t apply that to themselves.

It’s interesting that earlier in Matthew 27, Judas returns the 30 pieces of silver given him to betray Jesus. The chief priests said they couldn’t put the money into the treasury because it was blood money. In other words, they could scheme and connive to break the law and deliver an innocent man to die, but they couldn’t violate the law by giving blood money back to the temple. Envy drove these men who were used by God to change the course of history. They kept the law when it was convenient but didn’t care about breaking it when that served their best interests.

Envy can do the same with us. We may cling to obedience in certain things, but out of envy act in our own self-interest in other situations, casting others aside for our own self-advancement. God showed me how foolish I was acting in an area where I wanted to advance myself out of envy. Matthew 27:18 caused me to examine my own heart. It was not just the Jews and Romans who put Jesus on the cross. He was there for the sins of us all.

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Barbara Wilson	Joshua 19:1-20:9
Grace Community Church	Luke 19:28-48
Raleigh, North Carolina	Psalms 88:1-18
	Proverbs 13:12-14

The Uncomfortable Route

*Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? Matthew 26:53*

Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane being handed over to the chief priests and elders by Judas and a crowd armed with swords and clubs. The scene was chaotic with one of Jesus’ disciples lopping off the ear of the slave of the high priest.

Jesus was about to embark on the most difficult day of his earthly life. He had had great success while on earth. He had healed thousands, cast out many demons, brought people back to life, and taught with great authority. If He chose to reject the cross and not go through the torture He was about to endure, His ministry still would have been viewed as successful.

He could have chosen the easy route, the one with twelve legions of angels ministering to Him. Yet, the mission wasn’t finished. Out of obedience to His Father, Jesus chose to endure the cross and the pain that went along with that. I am so glad He did!

Every day you and I also have those opportunities to choose the route of obedience, or, sometimes, the easy route. Our human nature searches for ease and comfort, yet God’s path isn’t always that route. We want to yell at our children, yet obedience calls for patience. We want to enjoy our free moments at work, yet obedience says to share the gospel with that stranger next to you. Our easy night at home sounds wonderful, but obedience says to spend it with that hurting person who needs to know Christ’s love.

Christ’s example of taking the hard road compels me to make the same choice. I pray it does you, too.

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Barbara Wilson	Joshua 16:1-18:28
Grace Community Church	Luke 19:1-27
Raleigh, North Carolina	Psalms 87:1-7
	Proverbs 13:11

Eyes on Jesus

*... fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. Hebrews 12:2*

I want to fix my eyes on Jesus. No matter the circumstance, whatever I am going through, I want to keep my eyes on Jesus. In the good times, I will keep my eyes on Jesus, knowing it’s His mercy and grace that allowed this to happen. In the bad times, I will keep my eyes on Jesus, knowing that He not only allowed this to happen, but He will help me through it. In the most ordinary of days, in the grind of my everyday life, I will keep my eyes on Jesus. Whether I’m washing dishes, folding laundry, at my desk at work, or at lunch with friends, I will keep my eyes on Jesus.

But how do I keep my eyes on Jesus in the day-to-day rush of life? The answer will be different for each of us. For myself, I have done different things at different seasons of life. I post verses around the house, carry verses in my pocket, listen to praise music, or divide devotion time so I read God’s Word several times a day. I have prayer cards in the bathroom. Instead of talking to myself, I talk to God. I constantly try new things so that my time with God doesn’t become rote or old hat. It’s so easy for me to get into a rut and do things because I must, so I can check them off, instead of doing things to get to know God, to once again focus my eyes on God.

Lord, help me to keep my eyes focused on You today. I know it’s easy for me to forget about You in the busyness of life. Lord, help me to instead join You in *Your* life. Help me to keep my eyes on You.

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Shirley Ferguson	Joshua 21:1-22:20
Oakridge Community Church	Luke 20:1-26
Clarksville, Maryland	Psalms 89:1-13
	Proverbs 13:15-16

The Death of Regret

*Do not call to mind the former things or ponder things of the past. Behold, I will do something new. Isaiah 43:18-19*

God is so much greater than our sin! “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today,” said Joseph to his brothers (Genesis 50:20 ESV). If we are in Christ, by faith, we need not be intimidated in the least by our past sins and the consequences of those sins. Even the most evil and heinous sin and its seemingly permanent consequences are overcome by God and transformed into something that God uses for His glory and for our good.

Behold the cross of Jesus Christ! Behold the resurrection of Jesus Christ! Men choose to beat, mock, and kill the only innocent man who ever lived, Jesus Christ. What sin could be more evil or more egregiously cruel than that?! Could the consequences of that sin seem to be any more permanent? Death.

Yet it is through Christ's death that all who believe are saved from sin and its judgment. God produced the greatest good for mankind by using the worst acts of mankind to accomplish it. **God is greater than our sin!**

What those men who killed Jesus thought was so permanent proved **not** to be permanent—Jesus rose from the dead! **God is greater than the consequences of our sin!** Glory to our God that, in His grace, He exercises His awesome power to bring good, even out of evil. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you!” (1 Peter 1:3-4 ESV). **Regret is completely overcome through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ!**

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
David Brandts	Joshua 22:21-23:16
New Life Church	Luke 20:27-47
Cincinnati, Ohio	Psalm 89:14-37
	Proverbs 13:17-19

Max: Broken Offerings

*Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many? John 6:9 NIV*

Yesterday I wrote about our handicapped grandson Max. Though severely compromised in his abilities, Max impacted many lives in his seven short years. From his first labored breaths Max's life changed his family's lives. Due to Max spending a month in critical care, we all, and most of all his parents, learned much about sacrificing time, sleep, and energy to care for our sick boy.

When Max was finally discharged from the hospital, others' priorities and life choices radically altered. Our son became Max's primary caregiver and over the years grew to be so in tune with Max that he could "read" his desires and needs by his smallest movements and noises. Max's mom, equally impacted by this new world of a handicapped child, went on to become a special needs nurse, caring not only for her own son, but for other children with similar needs as well.

Max's dependence on his family changed us all, deeply imprinting the truth that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Patience, flexibility, compassion, and tenderness were cultivated in us, from grandparents down to the youngest cousin. Family and therapists, classmates and teachers, God used Max to teach us all precious lessons of sacrifice and serving, grace and giving, caring and commitment, and patience, as he so often extended great patience to us.

Long ago, another little boy had an interesting brush with Jesus. Offering his small, seemingly insignificant lunch of fish and bread to the Savior, he saw that offering miraculously multiplied to feed thousands! Max's broken "bread and fish" offerings with Jesus's touch have blessed many as well!

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Dawn Bovenmyer	Judges 1:1-2:9
Stonebrook Community Church	Luke 21:29-22:13
Ames, Iowa	Psalm 90:1-91:16
	Proverbs 13:24-25

Max: Broken and Valued

*All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. Psalm 139:16 NIV*

Just before Christmas this past year Max left us. His death from pneumonia was expected and yet came too soon. Max, our little grandson, entered our world just seven years ago with a rough and traumatic start. Birth complications left him a "broken" little boy, unable to walk, talk, or eat normally.

Yet despite his severe limitations, Max had a way of communicating with the world around him. Opening his eyes and starting to smile in his first half year of life were huge. His was a million-dollar smile that lit up the room.

Max started therapy at just a few months of age and, despite his handicaps, made progress. Therapists cheered him on as he slowly overcame one obstacle after another. Max attended pre-school and later elementary school. He quickly accumulated a fan club of children and adults alike.

Everyone loved Max and his quiet but inviting ways that made you want to be close, whether that meant taking your turn to push him in the wheelchair, reading a book to him, or helping him in art class or therapy. Max brought out the best in others.

Max taught a huge lesson to us all: value is NOT in what you can or can't do. True value comes from the fact that you are God's creation and image bearer, designed for His specific purposes and plans.

Max's funeral revealed that to us, as person after person described ways that he—quiet, non-verbal Max—had impacted their life. God's plan for Max included brokenness being gloriously spilled out into the lives of his family and community. (More on this tomorrow.)

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Dawn Bovenmyer	Joshua 24:1-33
Stonebrook Community Church	Luke 21:1-28
Ames, Iowa	Psalm 89:38-52
	Proverbs 13:20-23

Living in Light of the Ellipsis

*It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart. Ecclesiastes 7:2 NIV*

You may have seen the famous poem, "The Dash," by Linda Ellis. It talks about how someday our tombstones will have two dates separated by a dash: the day of our birth and the day of our death. We can't control either of the dates, but it would be wise to give thought to how we live our "dash."

As Christians, we understand that life doesn't end at the second date. Rather, that is when we enter the afterlife. To be more accurate, perhaps we should add a dot-dot-dot (called an "ellipsis") at the end. So instead of 11/7/1918 – 2/21/2018, it should look like 11/7/1918 – 2/21/018 . . .

The greatest earthly task that has no eternal value is worthless in comparison to the least significant accomplishment that ripples into eternity. Jesus said in Matthew 5:24, "And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward." Climbing a mountain, building a canal, or winning a medal, done for earthly gain, is ultimately not as worthwhile as giving a cup of water that brings reward.

It would be wise for us to think that through. What are the things we do here on the earth that ripple into eternity? What lasts? What are the things that have eternal impact or that bring reward from God? The dash is all we have right now, and we should live it well, but to live the dash well, we must live it in light of the ellipsis.

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Steven L. Nelson	Judges 2:10-3:31
The Rio Church	Luke 22:14-34
El Paso, Texas	Psalm 92:1-93:5
	Proverbs 14:1-2



Max: A Single Seed

... unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. John 12:24 NIV

In the days following our young grandson Max’s death, funeral and visitation plans were made. Our son and his family attend a church where Christ is not clearly preached. However, they decided that they wanted the funeral to be held in our church with one of our pastors speaking from John 14: “My Father’s house has many rooms . . . I am going there to prepare a place for you” (14:2 NIV), and “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me” (14:6).

As friends and family gathered on the funeral morning to remember Max and honor his life, another life was lifted up and glorified—that of Jesus Christ. Many who may have never heard the good news of Jesus were a “captive audience.” Teachers, school administrators and employees, therapists, and non-churched friends all listened as the gospel was sensitively but clearly shared.

And the love of God’s people present in that building was a powerful testimony as well, from the warm hospitality and post-service lunch prepared and served to the caring conversations and warm hugs. Already we have received feedback from several, describing how co-workers and friends were touched by the service. The Sunday following the funeral, the pastor of our son’s church commended our church to his congregation and encouraged them to visit if they ever had a chance. Only God knows the fruit from Max’s single seed!

Ecclesiastes 7:2-4 tells us that the heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, for it is there that we ponder the reality of death and eternity. Max’s death provided such an opportunity. We pray that many “seeds” will result!

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Dawn Bovenmyer	Judges 4:1-5:31
Stonebrook Community Church	Luke 22:35-53
Ames, Iowa	Psalms 94:1-23
	Proverbs 14:3-4

God’s Power

Tell everyone about God’s power. Psalm 68:34 NLT

Recently I have been thinking about God’s power, mainly, because our world is in desperate need of healing and the only one who can do that is God. In fact, one of His names is the God Who Heals, or the Great Physician.

It’s important to pray for healing and to grieve for people around the world who are in all kinds of horrendous situations. By praying we wield more power to help change the world and individual lives than we can even grasp or imagine. As Christians, we are incredibly blessed to be connected to the only true Power Source of the universe. You might think Rocky Mountain Power has some authority, but “they ain’t nothing” . . . let me tell you about the real deal—**Jesus!** These verses say it all: “*Tell everyone about God’s power. His majesty shines down on Israel; his strength is mighty in the heavens. God is awesome in his sanctuary. The God of Israel gives power and strength to his people. Praise be to God!*” (Psalm 68:34-35 NLT).

On a more personal level, I know some very dear people who are struggling with overwhelming health issues right now. Sometimes I think there is nothing I can do; I don’t even know what to say. Then, like lighting, God gives me verses like the ones above: “Tell everyone you know about God’s power.” Not only do I have the ability to share Christ, but the Bible says that I can approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, knowing that He stoops down to hear me pray. Isn’t that utterly amazing?!

God hears our prayers and He responds. He who is faithful will ultimately heal our world. He will heal our friends. I’m so thankful for my powerful God! Plug in and get connected — there’s plenty of power for everyone!

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Steve McInroy	Judges 7:1-8:17
The Rock Church	Luke 23:43-49
Draper, Utah	Psalms 97:1-98:9
	Proverbs 14:7-8

Max: His Own Turn

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead. . . . so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. 1 Corinthians 15:20,22-23 NIV

We took Max’s little body, encased in a cedar casket lovingly built by his grandfathers and father, to a small cemetery in central Iowa. As we stood in the cold, paying our last respects to our little man, the reality of what had happened that week settled in. We were burying our Max in the ground, never to be seen again in this lifetime. This was certainly a bleak and sad thought for us.

Flowers were placed, the casket was lowered, dirt was shoveled, and our Max was gone.

Yet in all the sadness there was a ray of hope. We **would** see Max again! How could that be?

The answer is in Christ and His own encounter with death and the grave. Just as Max experienced death, so did Jesus long ago. His blood was spilled, His lungs and heart fell silent. His dead body was wrapped and placed in a tomb. Roman soldiers, Jews, and His own followers all witnessed the horrors of His death.

Yet His stay in the tomb was but a short visit. Unlike the rest of mankind, Jesus did not stay dead in the grave. The third day yielded a surprising miracle: Jesus was alive! Death was conquered!

Later, surrounded by witnesses, Jesus ascended to heaven with the assurance that He would return, and in that return “our turn” would come. For at His command the dead in Christ will rise first, then those who are alive and remain will be caught up with them “to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NIV). Glorious hope for Max and for us all!

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Dawn Bovenmyer	Judges 6:1-40
Stonebrook Community Church	Luke 22:54-23:12
Ames, Iowa	Psalms 95:1-96:13
	Proverbs 14:5-6

Lightning

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1 ESV

Lightning is terrifying. It has a sheer force of unpredictability that can induce terror and cause destruction. I have personally experienced three close brushes with this source of natural electricity. As a kid, lightning started a fire in our neighbor’s home and would have caused major damage if my dad hadn’t rushed across the street to douse the flames. A couple of years later, I was calmly reading a book when our own home was struck; fortunately, the damage was limited to some ruined electronics, but the sound (a thunder clap without a boom) is etched in my memory. And as a teenager, while hiking in the Rockies, a fast-moving thunderstorm brought a sudden bolt down nearby, driving me to the forest floor in a panic.

I think that the trials and challenges of life are a lot like lightning: unpredictable, destructive, and terrifying. Can we control the when and where of trials? We might sense the potential for a tragedy or hardship nearing (like the ominous gray clouds of an approaching thunderstorm), but it will almost always crash with a suddenness that prevents us from seeking safe shelter. Like an electrical bolt, it can bring about wanton devastation, or drive us to our knees in panic.

Although we have little control over such trials, Romans 5:1 tells us that we can be at peace. Yes, comforted and secure even if trouble comes without warning! Where does peace come from? The Creator. And how do we receive it? By being “justified by faith.” This right-relationship with God—purchased by the blood of Christ—is our shelter, our refuge, our security in the midst of unpredictable trials. This week if (or when) the “lightning” strikes, hold fast to our God, with whom you have peace.

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>One-Year Bible Reading</b>
Greg Miller	Judges 8:18-9:21
Denver Firehouse Church	Luke 23:44-24:12
Denver, Colorado	Psalms 99:1-9
	Proverbs 14:9-10

### Your Face I Will Seek

*When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, O Lord, I shall seek." Psalm 27:8*

I always smile when I read this verse. I like how it starts with God saying to seek Him, and my heart agrees. That easy. Or is it? How can we know to trust our hearts? After all, our hearts are deceitful, right? "The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9).

Paul explains this heart situation in Romans further: "For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace" (Romans 8:5-6).

I think these verses explain how to align your heart with God's. Live in accordance with the Spirit by putting your mind on what the Spirit desires. How do I know what the Spirit wants? Well, how do you know what a friend desires? You spend time with him or her. If you want to know what God wants, spend time with Him. Study His Word and pray. The more time you spend with God, the more you will desire to spend time with God. Then when He says, "Seek My face," your heart will say, "Your face, Lord, I will seek."

What will be the result of all this seeking? A mind controlled by the Spirit, bringing "life and peace."

Your face, Lord, I will *indeed* seek.

**Submitted by:**  
Shirley Ferguson  
Oakridge Community Church  
Clarksville, Maryland

**One-Year Bible Reading**  
Judges 9:22-10:18  
Luke 24:13-53  
Psalm 100:1-5  
Proverbs 14:11-12

### Fearless

*But all who listen to me will live in peace, untroubled by fear of harm. Proverbs 1:33 NLT*

There is a way to live that leads to harm, fear, and restlessness. Most of the time this is a result of listening to ourselves, lies, or negative influences. When we find ourselves with fear rattling our emotions, we should ask, "Who am I listening to?" The **great news** is in Proverbs: those who listen to Jesus, His wisdom and the Holy Spirit, live in *peace without fear!*

Listening to God means allowing the truth of His Word to permeate our lives; it leads to obedience. Perhaps you are "hearing" His Word, but you're not actually "listening"?

I have three wonderful, little people at home. I find myself repeating phrases to them all the time. We have so many sayings that are very familiar to them: "Do the next right thing," or "Help each other win," or "Some may, we may not." So often they reply with, "We know, Dad, you tell us all the time." I then reply, "I will tell you until you obey."

Christian, are you fearful and restless? Are you afraid that harm might come to your marriage or your friendships or your career? Ask yourself, "Who am I listening to?" Are you listening to the Word of God? Have the words of Jesus gone beyond you "hearing" them to you obeying them?

Undoubtedly, this takes faith, time, and prayer. We need God's help. Have you asked Him for help? If you are afraid, if you are restless, if you are not at peace, perhaps pray something like this: "Lord Jesus, I am fearful and anxious. I may be listening to the wrong voices in my life. I need your help to listen to You. Would you work in my heart to help me to listen to your Word and obey? Turn my fear into courage and my restlessness into faith. Give me the peace that passes understanding, and fill me with the Holy Spirit's wisdom. In your name, Jesus Christ, Amen."

**Submitted by:**  
Steele Croswhite  
The Rock Church  
Draper, Utah

**One-Year Bible Reading**  
Judges 11:1-12:15  
John 1:1-28  
Psalm 101:1-8  
Proverbs 14:13-14