

HOPE

Love: How do these devotions teach about the love of God and the love for one another?

Learn: What have you learned about where Jesus walked that helps you with where you walk?

Share: What key insights have you learned this week on how to share your faith with others?

Monday August 1st - Read Genesis 8:1. In the midst of God's plan to destroy the Earth, God remembers Noah. As we learn early on in our Christian faith, grace cannot be earned. Because we cannot earn our way into God's favor or achieve some sort of "Noah" status, God remembers us too. The next time there is a *flood* of difficulty pouring into your life, God remembers you.

Tuesday, August 2nd – Read Luke 18:35-43. I love this story. Someone is broken, in need of healing. Jesus simply asks him to state what it is that he wants. The man says he wants to see and Jesus heals his sight. What are the areas of your life where Jesus is just waiting for you to name them? What are you going through today that you haven't asked for help? Then Jesus will ask, "What do you want me to do for you?" What will you say?

Wednesday, August 3rd – Read 1 Corinthians 15:54-58. I have read this passage many times over a freshly cut grave. Why do we wait until someone has died to present our theology of death? Today I want you to think about death, *not* someone you love who has died, think of death itself. Think about the finality of death. Think about how long we live and how long we stay dead. Now read Paul's words again. We need to wrestle with the Gospel proclamation that death has been defeated, that way, when it does come time to grieve, we can be in pain that holds in tension the joy and hope of what Christ has done for us.

Thursday, August 4th Read Joshua 10:25. The old military imagery from the Old Testament can sometimes provide a hopeful image. Joshua's speech to the people who had been following Moses that they would be victorious in battle. After our reflection yesterday on death, what might Joshua's words mean to the Christian life daily?

Friday, August 5th - Read Mark 4:30-34. The Kingdom of God or the "Reign" of God is essential to our Christian faith. There is an unseen connection between Christ and all of creation and when we love, when we care, when we are gracious, that connection is stronger and pushes back the darkness of this world. The Kingdom is here ("at hand") but it needs our efforts to spread out further.

Saturday, August 6th Read Romans 5:2-7. Our hope is "not put to shame." What does this mean? It means that the hope we have in Christ is *validated* by the pouring out of the Holy Spirit. We can feel God in our lives and in the connection we have with one another. That proves to us that it is real. We take comfort in knowing the large things have been taken care of (death) but we respond to the urgency that this world is in desperate need of the love of Jesus Christ.

Serve: Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

Healing Strength: LeAnne Schemenaur, Lurana Babcock, Chris & Katie Hamon, Charlie Walters, Mary Schmidt, Rex Townsend, Stan Ensich, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb's daughter), Janet Coons (Donna McCullough's daughter)

Homebound Members: Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Joann Young, Jeanne Carman

Military Personnel: Adam Walters, Joseph Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Adam Clark