

Pacific Union Church Connect (January 11 – 17, 2021 – Epiphany 1 – Year 2)

A life connected to God through daily Bible reading and prayer (for more info visit: pacificunionconnect.com)

How to pray the Psalms. Read the psalm slowly, turn it over in your mind and follow the prayer point into a time of prayer.

Instructions for Bible Reading – Listen. Respond. Share. Pick one of the three readings assigned for the day (Gospel, New and Old Testament). Read the passage slowly and then answer the following questions:

Listen. What is the passage saying? What are the main points? What does it say about God? What does it say about us?

Respond. If this is God’s to me, how will I respond? Here are some possibilities: Is He moving me to do something? Is He calling me to repent? Is there an area of my life where I needed to trust him? Is God moving me to worship Him? Is there something here that makes me thankful to God?

(Scripture references are from New International Version [1984] -- NIV)

Monday 1/11	Tuesday 1/12	Wednesday 1/13	Thursday 1/14	Friday 1/15	Saturday 1/16	Sunday 1/17
<p>Psalm: 7</p> <p>Meditation: Genesis Humans are very different from all of the other creatures that God created. Could you imagine a crocodile or a hippopotamus being Adam’s helper? Of course not. That is because God created the perfect partner for Adam, a partner who could not only help with the work of taking care of the Garden, but also acts as a companion. What makes a perfect partner or helper? How is our view of partnerships different from how God created Adam and Eve?</p> <p>Gospel: John 1:1-18 New Testament: Hebrews 1:1-14 Old Testament: Genesis 2:4-25</p>	<p>Psalm: 6</p> <p>Meditation: John In this passage, John the Baptist tells the priests and Levites that he is not the Messiah, but the one who is preparing the way for him. They even ask if John was Elijah reappearing on earth or a Prophet in his own right. John had his own position though, that was different but just as important. He was the fulfillment of one of Isaiah’s prophecies. John recognized how important his role truly was. He might not have been Elijah but he fulfilled a very similar role.</p> <p>Gospel: John 1:19-28 New Testament: Hebrews 2:1-10 Old Testament: Genesis 3:1-24</p>	<p>Psalm: 14</p> <p>Meditation: Hebrews This passage is deceptively powerful. It says that Jesus is “...not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.” Think about that for a moment. The savior of the world loves us as full members of his family. He loves us enough to suffer through every temptation, every pain, and utter humiliation so that he can help us through those very challenges. How much would you have to love someone to do the things that Jesus went through for you?</p> <p>Gospel: John 1:29-42 New Testament: Hebrews 2:11-18 Old Testament: Genesis 4:1-16</p>	<p>Psalm: 18:21-50</p> <p>Meditation: Genesis This is the familial line of Cain. Cain’s banishment from God’s sight did not stop the progression of his descendants. He became the ancestor of those who live in tents and raise livestock, those who play stringed instruments and pipes, and those who craft tools out of bronze and iron. Why do you think it was important for the writer of Genesis to include these traits in their description of Cain’s line?</p> <p>Gospel: John 1:43-51 New Testament: Hebrews 3:1-11 Old Testament: Genesis 4:17-26</p>	<p>Psalm: 17</p> <p>Meditation: John This is Jesus’ first open miracle. He mentions that his time has not yet come, yet he still obeys his mother’s wishes. Also mentioned in this passage is that after this first revelation of Jesus’ power the disciples believe in Jesus. If the disciples didn’t believe in Jesus until view this miracle, why did they decide, and continue to, follow Jesus? Was it because of his ability as a teacher or was there something else about him?</p> <p>Gospel: John 2:1-12 New Testament: Hebrews 4:1-13 Old Testament: Genesis 6:1-8</p>	<p>Psalm: 20</p> <p>Meditation: Hebrews Somewhere along the line, our culture decided that resting is the same as being lazy. Have you ever been physically or mentally exhausted but unable to rest because there’s something else you think you should be doing or simply feel guilty for sitting down for a few minutes? This is not God’s plan for us. He ordered us to rest. We seem to forget that it is an order from God that we are disobeying. We should obey God, not the world.</p> <p>Gospel: John 2:13-22 New Testament: Hebrews 4:1-13 Old Testament: Genesis 6:9-22</p>	<p>Psalm: 148</p> <p>Meditation: Genesis When we read the story of Noah, we tend to focus on the flood or the rainbow covenant and forget about the animals. Pairs of every animal (except fish) “came to Noah.” How did pairs of North American Moose or the South American Capuchin Monkey get to the ark which was somewhere in Mesopotamia? Every animal that populates the earth today is descended from the creatures who made this extraordinary trek.</p> <p>Gospel: Mark 3:7-19 New Testament: Ephesians 4:1-16 Old Testament: Genesis 7:1-10, 17-23</p>