

# Prayer and Study Guide

Daily Scripture Readings – 6/3/18

**Prayer** - Use the Prayer of Saint Francis to begin your time with God each day.

Lord make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love;

for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

And it's in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

**Monday** – Read Samuel 3:1-10. Have you ever felt a call like this? Have you ever felt God calling you, and it is difficult to understand? If so, you are in good company. Many prophets and giants of the faith throughout history have struggled with a call. We process and discern our call in community. Samuel needed Eli to help him recognize God's voice, and we also need friends in faith to help us recognize God's voice and discern what God is calling us to do. In your prayer time, consider your faithful friends who could help you discern God's call. Ask God if there is anything you want to discuss with a friend in faith.

**Tuesday** – Read Matthew 4:18-22. In this passage, Jesus calls Peter and Andrew to follow him and be his disciples. Do you wonder what these two men left behind to follow Jesus? Did they leave family, friends, and their homes? Surely, they sacrificed in order to answer the call of Jesus, and their lives were never the same. These two brothers were ordinary men. God calls each of us and works through us to do extraordinary things. God cares more about your availability than your ability. In your prayer time, consider whether or not you have made yourself available to God.

**Wednesday** – Read Genesis 12:1-4. God called Abram to trust God and go to places he had never been. Abram had the choice to trust God and follow where he led or to stay where he was. God called him to go west, and Abram faithfully did what God called him to do. In Abram's time, not many people ever traveled more than 10 miles outside of their hometown, so there were many unknowns. There was fear and uncertainty, but Abram followed. During your prayer time, ask God to reveal any fears or uncertainties you might have in following a call.

**Thursday** – Read Exodus 3:1-22. Moses received a divine calling that changed the course of our faith history. Moses had plenty of excuses about why he couldn't do what God was calling him to do, but God assured Moses that He would walk with him every step of the way. God even promised Moses that he would be able to perform God's signs and wonders to help with his task. During your prayer time, reflect on what excuses you might make in answering God's call on your life. Do not be ashamed of them, but ask God to help you move past them.

**Friday** – Read Jeremiah 1:1-9. When Jeremiah received his call, he said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the Lord said to Jeremiah, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. <sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." What example does this set for the role of children and young people in our congregation? Do we foster their sense of call, or do we dismiss what they have to say because they are young? In your prayer time, consider how God might be calling you to foster the calls of young people within our church. How might you play a role in helping a young person find their God given gifts.

**Saturday** – Read Acts 9:1-6. When Paul received his call, he was actively working against the church. He was persecuting and even approving the killing of Christians. However, God found a way to redeem his life, and he became the most influential apostle in early Christianity. How can God redeem the broken places in your life? In your prayer time, reflect upon how God could use your redemption to inspire others and live out your call more effectively.

**Lectionary Readings:** I Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139:1-18; II Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6.

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