

# Prayer and Study Guide

Daily Scripture Readings – 10/28/18

**Monday** – Read Matthew 9:35-38. **Our Purpose.** Jesus did not wait for people to come to him. He went out to all the cities and towns to teach the people, to proclaim the Good News of the kingdom, and to minister to the people by healing them of every disease. He did all of this because he had compassion for the people. In our church our motivation for reaching out to people is not simply to make the church grow. Rather, we are motivated to reach out and minister to people because we care about them. Jesus said that we should pray for God to show us how we can minister to the people in our community and then to ask God to send us to minister in those ways. Our church's original purpose was *to be known throughout Nichols Hills as a friendly church with a program to meet the needs of the entire community.* Through the decades, we have sought to fulfill this purpose. As you pray, think about the special gifts for ministry that God has given to you. Think about the people in our community, and ask God to use you to minister to someone you know.

**Tuesday** – Read Luke 22:14-20 and Luke 24:13-35. **Worship.** God transforms our lives when we worship together. Our church began worshipping together in the home of Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Bullard on June 20, 1948, and we have been gathering for worship ever since. When we receive Holy Communion we experience the presence of the risen Christ. In our church we celebrate the Lord's Supper every Sunday in our 8:30 service and on the first Sunday of the month at our 10:50 service. Each week, members of our Altar Guild prepare the Lord's Table with Holy Communion to help people grow closer to God. This dedicated group of women also straightens and cleans the sanctuary after worship to create an inviting space for our worship services. If you would like to serve on the Altar Guild, contact Janet Jones or Carol Magness. Pray that each person who worships with us will experience the presence of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

**Wednesday** – Read Philippians 2:5-11. **Jesus is worthy of our worship.** On October 31, 1948 at our first worship service in our chapel which is now parlor, our church sang, *"The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord; she is his new creation by water and the Word. From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride; with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died."* On Sunday, we also sang a song based on the earliest hymn of the early church: *"He is Lord. He is Lord. He is risen from the dead, and he is Lord. Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord."* Jesus was generous in everything he did. His healing is for you. His teachings are for you. His ministry is for you. His love, grace, and mercy are for you. He gave his life for you so that you could receive the blessings and the salvation that he offers to you. Jesus is worthy of our worship. As you pray, consider the ways you can actively bow to worship Jesus.

**Thursday** – Read John 3:16 and II Corinthians 8:9. **God is Generous.** <sup>16</sup> *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.* God is generous. In fact, God is so generous that Jesus tells us, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son."* God so loved you that he gave his one and only Son, Jesus. He shed his blood on a cross and died. He rose again as the perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness of your sins. That's how generous God is. That's how much God loves you.

Generosity is at the essence of who God is, and God created you in the very image of God. You were created to be generous, and there is something inside each one of us that finds great joy and meaning in acts of generosity. How will you respond to God's generosity?

**Friday** – Read I Chronicles 28:1-21. King David realized that building the Lord's house would not only bless the people who lived at that time. It would also bless many generations to come. God has faithfully worked through the people in our church to generously provide the tools and resources we need to do the ministry that God has called us to do. We are thankful for the generous way that so many people have given to God to support our church's ministry, and we know that God will help us continue to minister to each generation. As you pray, consider how you can minister to a younger generation.

**Saturday** – Read Genesis 28:10-22. **Tithing teaches me to put God first.** Jacob encountered the Living God in a dream. When he awoke he designated the place to be holy by setting up a pillar of rock and pouring oil over it. <sup>20</sup> *Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, <sup>21</sup> so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, <sup>22</sup> and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house; and of all that you give me I will surely give one-tenth to you."* Jacob wanted to make sure that he always remembered that it was God who gave him his blessings, so he decided to give one tenth of everything he received back to God as a way of putting God first. As you pray, consider the way God is calling you to grow towards tithing as a way of putting God first in your life.

**Lectionary Readings:** Job 42:1-17; Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52.

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