

Prayer and Study Guide

Daily Scripture Readings – 5/19/19

Monday – Read I Kings 17:8-24. **Elijah Raises the Widow of Zarephath's Son.** This widow had lost all hope and had given up on life. Elijah asked this widow to feed him, and God lifted her up from hopelessness to hope by providing enough to eat for many days. Tragedy struck, and the widow's son died mysteriously. Elijah picked up the dead boy, carried him to the upper room, put his body on top of him, looked up to Heaven and said, "God, I know You can lift up this boy to life, and I'm asking You to do it," and God raised the boy from death to life. So the widow said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth." People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. When we seek God's will, God watches over his word to perform it. As you pray, ask God to help you live in such a way that people would see God at work through you and give God the glory.

Tuesday – Read II Kings 4:8-37. **Elisha Raises the Shunammite Woman's Son.** The Shunammite woman saw God at work in Elisha's life and supported Elisha's ministry by providing a home for him. Elisha blessed this woman so that she might give birth to a son. When tragedy struck, and the boy died, the woman came to Elisha for help. Elisha prayed to the Lord and covered the boy with his own body until the boy's body became warm again. God worked through Elisha to lift the boy from death to life, and Elisha gave the boy back to his mother. Where do you see God at work through our church's ministries? How are you giving and serving to support God's ministry? As you pray, ask God to bring new life to the dead situations that you may be facing.

Wednesday – Read Luke 8:40-56. **Jesus Raises Jairus' Daughter.** A loving father comes to Jesus in desperate need of healing for his only daughter. Jesus agrees to go to this man's home to minister to the little girl. Before they could get there, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the teacher any longer." But Jesus told the father, "Do not fear, only believe, and she will be saved." Even in the face of death, it is never too late for Jesus because he has power to heal, to save, and to give life. Even when they laughed at him, Jesus was not deterred. He took the girl's father and mother with him into the room where the girl was, took her by the hand, and said, "Child, get up!" Her spirit returned, and she got up at once. We hear this story in the light of Jesus' own resurrection. When we experience the death of a loved one we may hear Jesus' strong voice speak the words, "Child, get up!" and be reminded of our faith and hope in Jesus' power over life and death as we anticipate resurrection. Spend some time praying for parents who have experienced the death of a child, and thank Jesus for his promise of resurrection.

Thursday – Read Luke 7:1-10 - **Jesus Heals the Centurion's Servant.** When someone you love is sick or hurting, where do you turn for help? A centurion believed in Jesus' power to heal and sent Jewish elders to ask him to come and heal his servant. Jesus went with them, but the centurion claimed he was not worthy to have Jesus in his house and asked for Jesus only to say the word to heal his servant. Jesus was impressed by the humble way in which the centurion expressed his faith in Jesus' ability to offer healing. Like this centurion, we can have faith in Jesus' ability to heal without physically seeing him. What kind of healing do you need in your life? Spend some time praying for Jesus to offer you healing.

Friday – Read Luke 7:11-17. **Jesus Raises the Widow of Nain's Son.** This story shows us the way Jesus ministered to a grieving mother. She was already a widow because her husband had died, and she was most likely very poor. Now, her only son had died. When Jesus saw her, he had compassion for her. Jesus has come to raise people from death to life and to make possible new beginnings. We still struggle today with the reality that many sick children are not healed of life-threatening diseases, but we find hope in Jesus who has power over life and death and is able to raise us up to eternal life on the day of resurrection. Pray for widows and for parents who have suffered through the death of a child.

Saturday – Read Luke 7:18-23. **Are You the One to Come, or Are We to Wait for Another?** When John's disciples asked if Jesus was the one who is to come, Jesus told them, "*Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them.*" ²³ *And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.*" Who is Jesus? He is the Lord, the Messiah, the Christ, and the Son of God. When we follow and serve Jesus, we see the way he lifts up and ministers to hurting people. Jesus is at work in our church to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, give hope to the hopeless, and lift up the lowly. As you pray, ask Jesus to work through you to share in his ministry and lift up the people in your life.

Lectionary Readings: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35.

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