

Day Twelve *Friday*

Scripture: Matthew 11:20-30

Focus Text: "Come to me, all that are weary and are carrying you heavy burdens, and I will give you rest" (v. 28).

Listening to God: Your walk with me was never meant to be a weary slog. If you are feeling worn out and overburdened, check your load to make sure that you are not carrying things I have not called you to carry. When you get in the yoke with me, I always provide what you need to carry the load. When you load yourself up and try to go it alone, I can't help you. Try putting the things that are making you weary in my hands right now. Call on me to do what only I can do. I will give you rest.

My Prayer:

Day Thirteen *Saturday*

Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-21

Focus Text: "I am about to do a new thing: now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (v. 19).

Listening to God: Never think you have me figured out. I am always doing something new. If you are too comfortable, you are probably not living close enough to me. Do not resist when life takes you out of your comfort zone. Do not struggle to hold on to the way things are or have been. I am a God of the future, and I am always walking with you into the unfolding surprises of my will. Relax and enjoy the journey!

My Prayer:

Sailing Begins With Daily Prayer, Week 2

This "Guide to Forty Days of Prayer" is from Sailboat Church by Joan S. Gray, WJK Press: 2014, p. 118-124. The book is available for purchase at Our Town Books.

Instructions:

Begin each day's exercise by asking God to open your mind and heart to what God wants to do in you. Read the scripture several times and think about what it says. Then read the section "Listening to God" and meditate on what God might be saying to you personally. Next, pray your response to God from your listening and meditation. Writing your prayer down will give you something to reflect on later. However you pray, make the prayer as honest and personal as you can. Trust God to meet you where you are and give you what you need. Let these readings and reflections lead you into deeper intimacy with God.

Day Seven *Sunday*

Scripture: Mark 1:14-20

Focus Text: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news" (v. 15).

Listening to God: I want to do something new in you and in your church. This new thing is of a piece with what I have been doing with you, but it is also fresh and different. I want you to turn away from your contentment with the way things are and ask me what I want you to be doing. I want you to partner with me now, not next week or next year. There are people all around you who need what only I can give. Let me use you to be good news to them.

My Prayer:

Day Eight Monday

Scripture: Luke 15:11-24

Focus Text: "While he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion, he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him (v. 20)

Listening to God: Your unfaithfulness does not change my faithfulness to you. Your sin does not erase our relationship. Jesus died on a cross so that sin would not have the last word between us. Turn and take one step in my direction, and I will run to meet you. You cannot imagine how the angels rejoice when they see you turn for home.

My Prayer:

Day Nine Tuesday

Scripture: Revelation 2:1-7

Focus Text: "I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first" (v. 4).

Listening to God: Haven't you been missing something in your life? There is so much more I want to give you if you would only turn and open up to me again. I did not move away from you, but you have put distance between us. This makes everything in your life out of kilter. I will rekindle the passion of our relationship, the fire of my presence in your life. Just ask me and wait in my presence.

My Prayer:

Day Ten Wednesday

Scripture: Luke 3:1-14

Focus Text: "And the crowds asked him, what then should we do?" (v. 10).

Listening to God: I care about how you live. I created you to reflect my love in the world. No matter what your situation in life, I have marked out this calling for you, a way of life that gives me joy. Are you consciously and intentionally living toward my will for your life? When was the last time you invited me to direct your way? Turn to me now! I can make your crooked paths straight and your rough places like a plain.

My Prayer:

Day Eleven Thursday

Scripture: Matthew 18:1-14

Focus Text: "Unless you change and become like children, will you never enter the kingdom of heaven" (v. 3)

Listening to God: When I made you, I wove your spirit together with mine. You will always be my child. The best parent in all the world cannot love as I can love you. My love is unconditional and unbreakable. When you live into this relationship, you fulfill the purpose for which you are placed on earth. Why are you always struggling to be independent? I created you to depend on me and your fellow human beings. It is when you let go and become as dependent as a little child that I can do the most in your life.

My Prayer: