

2023 Rhema Devotional Booklet

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RHEMA
睿玛 读经运动
read hear
meditate
· act ·
读听思行



活出圣爱

LIVING OUT HOLY LOVE

效法基督、作主门徒 FOLLOWING CHRIST, BEING DISCIPLES

Living Out Holy Love

Thank God for leading our church through two years of RHEMA Bible Reading Movement! This movement has helped the spiritual growth of our members, strengthened our fellowship, and contributed to the formation of shared memories.

This year's RHEMA Bible Reading Movement will last for 40 days, with a focus on the theme "Living out Holy Love." The devotional passages are mainly taken from the Book of James, supplemented with other scriptures related to practical faith. We hope that through daily Bible reading, sharing, and accountability during Christian conferencing, we can benefit in the following four areas:

- Spiritual Well-being:

Just as physical health is important, spiritual growth is equally vital. Good "spiritual well-being" will help us establish a wonderful relationship with God, grow and mature in our spiritual lives, and strengthen our faith.

- The Lord's Invitation:

In the face of this year's theme of "Living out Holy Love," are we willing to accept the Lord's invitation to spend at least 15 minutes each day reading, hearing, meditating, and acting out His words, thereby becoming disciples who follow His way?

- Being Disciples of Christ:

To become healthy disciples of the Lord, we need to start with a yearning and love for His Word. Moreover, we should be willing to share our insights from reading the Bible with our small groups or other brothers and sisters, mutually encouraging one another.

- Shared Memories:

Through the RHEMA Bible Reading Movement, we can build a shared foundation of faith, establish a sense of group identity and belonging, participate in God's story, pass on faith traditions, and strengthen the consistency of doctrine and teaching. These shared experiences and memories contribute to deepening the connection among church members and our relationship with God.

May we experience the abundant grace of God during this 40-day journey. Amen!

Rev Chua Ooi Suah

The “Rhema” Method of Searching the Scriptures

"Rhema" is an English transliteration of the Greek word ῥῆμα (pronounced "rey-mah"), which means "word". In the New Testament, Rhema often refers to "God's Word"

"Rhema" also encapsulates John Wesley's method of searching the Scriptures, comprising 4 aspects of receiving God's Word as a means of grace for us:

Read: To read God's Word in Scripture

Hear: To hear God's Word through Scripture, sermons, and sharing from others

Meditate: To reflect on God's Word to us and how we should respond

Act: To apply God's Word in our daily life

How can you use this booklet?

1. You are encouraged to set aside 15-20 minutes each day to spend time with God.
2. Begin each devotion with a few minutes to quieten down and centre on God.
3. Devotions from Monday to Saturday include a daily passage (NIV) and space in the booklet to practice the Rhema method of Searching the Scriptures: Read, Hear, Meditate, Act. Please journal your reflections.
4. For Sundays, the sermons in the worship services will complement the Rhema scriptural content. You may pen down your sermon notes in this booklet.
5. You are encouraged to gather weekly with a spiritual friend or small group to encounter the Word together, share your insights, stay accountable, support one another, and live out the Word.

Rhema: Searching the Scriptures Movement
20 August 2023, Sunday – 1 October 2023, Sunday

Week/Day	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		21 Aug	22 Aug	23 Aug	24 Aug	25 Aug	26 Aug
1 st Week	Jas 1:19-27 What Does It Mean To Live Out Holy Love?	Jas 1:1 <input type="checkbox"/>	Jas 1:2-4 <input type="checkbox"/>	Jas 1:5-8 <input type="checkbox"/>	Jas 1:9-15 <input type="checkbox"/>	Jas 1:16-21 <input type="checkbox"/>	Jas 1:22-27 <input type="checkbox"/>
		28 Aug	29 Aug	30 Aug	31 Aug	1 Sep	2 Sep
2 nd Week	Jas 2:1-13 How Does Holy Love Look Like In My Relationships?	Jas 2:1-4 <input type="checkbox"/>	Jas 2:5-7 <input type="checkbox"/>	Jas 2:8-13 <input type="checkbox"/>	Jas 2:14-17 <input type="checkbox"/>	Jas 2:18-20 <input type="checkbox"/>	Jas 2:21-26 <input type="checkbox"/>
		4 Sep	5 Sep	6 Sep	7 Sep	8 Sep	9 Sep
3 rd Week	Jas 2:14-26 How Do I Demonstrate Holy Love In My Actions?	Jas 3:1-2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Jas 3:3-5 <input type="checkbox"/>	Jas 3:6-12 <input type="checkbox"/>	Jas 3:13-18 <input type="checkbox"/>	Pro 3:13-18 <input type="checkbox"/>	Eph 5:15-17 <input type="checkbox"/>
		11 Sep	12 Sep	13 Sep	14 Sep	15 Sep	16 Sep
4 th Week	Jas 3:1-12 How Powerful Is Holy And Loving Speech?	Jas 4:1-3 <input type="checkbox"/>	Jas 4:4-6 <input type="checkbox"/>	Jas 4:7-10 <input type="checkbox"/>	Jas 4:11-12 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 Jn 2:15-17 <input type="checkbox"/>	Rom 12:1-2 <input type="checkbox"/>
		18 Sep	19 Sep	20 Sep	21 Sep	22 Sep	23 Sep
5 th Week	Jas 5:1-6 What Does Holy Love Have To Do With My Money?	Jas 4:13-17 <input type="checkbox"/>	Jas 5:1-6 <input type="checkbox"/>	Luk 16:19-31 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 Tim 6:9-11; 17-19 <input type="checkbox"/>	Deu 15:6-8 <input type="checkbox"/>	Mat 6:19-24 <input type="checkbox"/>
		25 Sep	26 Sep	27 Sep	28 Sep	29 Sep	30 Sep
6 th Week	Jas 5:13-20 How Do I Live Out Holy Love In Prayer And Worship?	Jas 5:7-11 <input type="checkbox"/>	Rom 5:1-5 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 Co 4:16-18 <input type="checkbox"/>	Jas 5:12-18 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 Jn 5:14-15 <input type="checkbox"/>	Jas 5:19-20 <input type="checkbox"/>
7 th Week	Jas 5:19-20 What Has Holy Love Have To Do With God's Mission/Discipleship?						

What Does It Mean To Live Out Holy Love?

Day 1: 20 August 2023, Sunday

James 1:19-27

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Sermon Notes

My Prayer

James 1:1

¹ James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:
Greetings.

Read

Read the verse at least three times slowly and carefully, word by word.

Hear

Listen attentively to what you are reading. As you read, which words stand out to you? If there is none, read the verse again several times.

Meditate

- a. What does it mean to be a "servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ"? Evaluate yourself. Do you consider yourself a qualified servant of Christ? (Rate yourself on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being fully qualified.) Which areas do you need more practice?
- b. What does "scattered" refer to? Who are the Christians who are "scattered" and in need of your care and intercession?

Act

Pray for those who come to mind. Consider sending them text messages to show your concern and offer encouragement.

Pray

Our Heavenly Father, thank you for your infinite love and mercy that allows us to be part of your kingdom. Although we now live scattered in this world, we long for the bright and beautiful eternal home of the future. Help your servants around the world to be light and salt, bringing your love to a dark and broken world. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

What Does It Mean To Live Out Holy Love?

Day 3: 22 August 2023, Tuesday

James 1:2-4

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Read

Read the Scripture passage slowly and carefully, paying attention to each word.

Hear

What qualities of the spiritual life do you hear in this passage? Which ones do you need to work on?

Meditate

In your experience of caring for and loving people, have you ever suffered the price of perseverance? Have you encountered great joy from the Lord in the process or outcome of those experiences?

Act

Pray for a blessing upon those whom you find difficult to love.

Pray

Lord Jesus, even when You suffered greatly on the cross, You still prayed for Your persecutors. Lord, help us always to remember that we are sinners who have done nothing to earn Your grace, and we have no reason to boast. Help us to show love and patience when we interact with people who have different personalities, ideas, and styles, remembering that they are also loved by the Father. We love because You first loved us. When we are weak, intolerant and unloving, aid us and empower us to change. Amen.

What Does It Mean To Live Out Holy Love?

Day 4: 23 August 2023, Wednesday

James 1:5-8

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

Read

Read the passage aloud.

Hear

Imagine James speaking to you face to face. Read the passage again and listen carefully to the will of God.

Meditate

What has caused you to question God's love for you? Have you ever complained that God has put you in difficult situations with certain people?

Act

Talk to God in prayer about your doubts and difficulties. If you still harbour negative feelings or resentment towards someone, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to resolve them.

Pray

Heavenly Father, we need Your love to be poured out into our hearts and lives. Help us to be confident that the hurts we have suffered, the relationships we have messed up, and the ignorance we have showed will not separate us from Your love. Teach us that You have a good purpose for every person we encounter and every circumstance we face. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

What Does It Mean To Live Out Holy Love?

Day 5: 24 August 2023, Thursday

James 1:9-15

⁹ Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. ¹⁰ But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. ¹¹ For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.

¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

¹³ When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Read

Read the Scripture passage aloud.

Hear

What is God saying to you through these verses?

Meditate

What are trials and temptations? What mindset does God want us to have when we face them? How are we to hold on to our love for God and others in the midst of trials and temptations?

Act

Recite verse 12. If you know someone who needs encouragement in this area, consider sharing the verse with them.

Pray

O God, you promise that those who love you and endure trials will receive the crown of life from you. Just as the Lord Jesus went through great trials because of His love and ultimately triumphed over death, help us to fix our eyes on Christ, not prioritizing the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, or the pride of life. Holy Spirit, guard our hearts so that we can love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and love others as ourselves. Lord, have mercy on us. Amen.

What Does It Mean To Live Out Holy Love?

Day 6: 25 August 2023, Friday

James 1:16-21

¹⁶ Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

Read

What is the emphasis in this passage? Circle the words that you think are important.

Hear

Read the passage aloud again and listen carefully to God's heart.

Meditate

What mindset does Scripture remind us to have when encountering unexpected situations or when encountering people or things that are not to our liking?

Act

Human anger does not fulfil the righteousness of God. Exercise: When confronted with a situation or person that makes you angry, pause and, while regulating your breathing, meditate on the following: be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger.

Pray

O heavenly Father, You are the unchanging One and Your lovingkindness never changes. Every good gift and every blessing comes from You. We thank and praise you for you have created and intended us for good. Father, help us in our daily lives to do all things and treat all people in ways that are pleasing to you, and to do so with Christlikeness. In Christ's precious name, we pray. Amen.

What Does It Mean To Live Out Holy Love?

Day 7: 26 August 2023, Saturday

James 1:22-27

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Read

What words appear repeatedly? Please circle them.

Hear

Read the passage again slowly and aloud, noting the feelings in your heart.

Meditate

What does the passage say about being "religious" in God's eyes? Reflect on your own words and actions. Where do you need to be more careful and diligent in practicing them?

Act

Pray to God every day for strength to walk in His ways, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you be aware of the needs of those around you (friends, family, strangers, and especially the vulnerable) and to do what you can to help them.

Pray

Dear God, You desire Your people to walk in Your ways and live out Your will. Remind us by Your Spirit not to be satisfied with the joy and knowledge that we have been justified by faith, but to continue striving for a perfect life through sanctifying grace, loving God and others. Lord, You have compassion on the world, and even more compassion and mercy on the lonely and the helpless. May we all be sensitive to Your heart and learn to be like the Lord Jesus, willingly and humbly paying the price to care for and help others. In the Holy Name of the Lord, we pray. Amen.

How Does Holy Love Look Like In My Relationships?

Day 8: 27 August 2023, Sunday

James 2:1-13

¹ My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. ² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵ Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. ¹¹ For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

¹² Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, ¹³ because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Sermon Notes

My Prayer

How Does Holy Love Look Like In My Relationships?

Day 9: 28 August 2023, Monday

James 2:1-4

¹ My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. ² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

Read

What is the message conveyed in this passage? What warnings does it provide?

Hear

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Meditate

Have you encountered situations where you showed "special attention" or "become judges with evil thoughts"?

Act

Approach God in prayer, reflecting on your thoughts and the outcomes of your reflections.

Pray

Righteous and merciful Lord, help me! May I never show favouritism or hold biased or judgmental attitudes towards others. Instead, help me imitate Christ and treat everyone with compassion and kindness. Lord, grant me the mind of Christ, enable me to put off the old self and put on the new self, and guide me to always speak and act in ways that edify others. I pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

How Does Holy Love Look Like In My Relationships?

Day 10: 29 August 2023, Tuesday

James 2:5-7

⁵ Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

Read

What do you observe from this passage? How does it describe the people chosen by God?

Hear

What is God speaking to you through this passage?

Meditate

Reflect on your treatment of the poor. Have you humiliated or discriminated against them? Have you ever experienced oppression from the wealthy? Consider God's perspective on these situations.

Act

Take action and treat the poor and the wealthy with equality. Seek fairness and justice, treating everyone with love and respect regardless of their economic status. Strive to avoid discrimination, prejudice, and blasphemy towards God.

Pray

Heavenly Father, thank you for choosing the poor to be rich in faith and inherit your kingdom. Forgive us for any humiliation towards the poor and help us see others as you do. Teach us to value people over possessions and use us to support those in need. May we reflect your love through acts of kindness and mercy. In Jesus' name, Amen.

How Does Holy Love Look Like In My Relationships?

Day 11: 30 August 2023, Wednesday

James 2:8-13

⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. ¹¹ For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

¹² Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, ¹³ because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Read

How does this passage discuss the "law"? What ultimately triumphs?

Hear

What is God speaking to you through this passage?

Meditate

How can I apply the teachings of this passage to my daily life?

Act

Starting today, approach things with a heart of mercy.

Pray

O Lord, You are the One who shows mercy to others. I acknowledge that I cannot fully fulfil the requirements of the law. I understand that only a heart of mercy can triumph over the judgement of the law. Therefore, I pray that You will grant me a compassionate heart, that I may live my life with love as the starting point and bear witness to the glory of the Lord. I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

How Does Holy Love Look Like In My Relationships?

Day 12: 31 August 2023, Thursday

James 2:14-17

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Read

What do you observe from this passage? How does it discuss faith and deeds?

Hear

Read this passage three times and listen to what God is saying to you.

Meditate

How does this passage connect with your life experiences? What is it reminding you of?

Act

Determine to engage in "deeds" of mercy and commit to helping someone in physical need this week through your actions.

Pray

Dear Lord, I understand that faith without deeds is dead. I pray that Your love fills my heart, and that Your Spirit opens my spiritual eyes and ears, making me sensitive to the needs of vulnerable people around me. May I commit to deeds of mercy and become a Christ follower who brings glory to You. I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

How Does Holy Love Look Like In My Relationships?

Day 13: 1 September 2023, Friday

James 2:18-20

¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

²⁰ You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?

Read

What key words or phrases in this passage caught your attention?

Hear

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Meditate

Reflect on whether your past actions have been driven by faith. How can you do better?

Act

Practice caring for others from the heart. Call someone who is weak in faith or has not yet believed in Jesus. Listen to their heart and pray for them.

Pray

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for coming from heaven to earth as the incarnate Word to save us sinners. How great You are! Please help me to imitate Christ and be willing to sacrifice myself for others. If there are any actions in my life that lack faith and love, remind me and help me to correct them so that I may have a positive and beautiful testimony in my life. I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

How Does Holy Love Look Like In My Relationships?

Day 14: 2 September 2023, Saturday

James 2:21-26

²¹ Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. ²⁴ You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

²⁵ In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Read

What key words or phrases in this passage stood out to you?

Hear

Reread this passage slowly, and listen to what God is saying to you.

Meditate

How can you apply the lessons from this passage to your daily life?

Act

Spend quiet time in the presence of God, reflecting on the passage, and create a list of faith-action combinations. Then, commit to putting them into practice.

Pray

Faithful and gracious Lord, You teach us that faith and action go hand in hand, and we praise and thank You for this truth! Lord, I aspire to follow the example of faithful Abraham, to pursue holiness and live out a life of love that aligns with Your heart. Guide and assist me, Lord, to be a true friend on this journey of life, so that others may see Your grace and works through my life and give glory to You. I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

How Do I Demonstrate Holy Love In My Actions?

Day 15: 3 September 2023, Sunday

James 2:14-26

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

²⁰ You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? ²¹ Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. ²⁴ You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

²⁵ In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Sermon Notes

My Prayer

How Do I Demonstrate Holy Love In My Actions?

Day 16: 4 September 2023, Monday

James 3:1-2

¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ² We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

Read

What do you notice about these Bible verses?

Hear

What is God trying to show or tell you through these verses?

Meditate

Have you hurt others through the careless use of words, such as gossip, deceit, lies, or verbal attacks?

Act

While it is likely that we make mistakes due to our sinful nature, we should not use that as an excuse. Let us commit in our hearts and wills to be accountable to God, disciplining our tongues and speaking with holiness.

Pray

Our beloved Father in heaven, please help those who teach your word. May their actions and speech align with your teachings. Help us be vigilant and watchful over our words and actions, speaking and acting out of love. May our words and actions uplift and benefit others. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

How Do I Demonstrate Holy Love In My Actions?

Day 17: 5 September 2023, Tuesday

James 3:3-5

³ When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴ Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. ⁵ Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.

Read

What metaphors do you notice in these verses?

What do these metaphors refer to?

Hear

What truths do you understand from these metaphors?

Meditate

Are we in control of our tongues and speaking in an edifying manner, or do we compromise and let our tongues loose in ways we deem tolerable? Are we allowing our tongues to control us?

Act

May the Lord help us control and conquer the harmful words that come from our tongues. Let us learn to speak edifying words that demonstrate our love for God and others.

Pray

Heavenly Father, we earnestly ask for forgiveness for the hurt and destruction caused by our uncontrollable tongues. Help us guard our tongues and speech in every way and grant us wisdom in our words. May our thoughts, words, and actions reflect our obedience and submission to Jesus Christ. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

James 3:6-12

⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

⁷ All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

Read

What illustrations does James use to describe the tongue?

Hear

What is God saying to you through this passage today?

Meditate

"My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs?" (James 3:12)
What kind of fruit is evident in my life based on the words I speak?

Act

Take stock of your conversations, emails, and social media posts today. Have they been peaceful and fruitful, or have they been divisive, envious, bitter, and hurtful to others?

Pray

Lord, help me to take this Scripture to heart. Words can cause much harm, and I acknowledge my own experiences of being hurt by others' harsh words and hurting others with my own. Forgive me, Lord. In Jesus' name. Amen.

How Do I Demonstrate Holy Love In My Actions?

Day 19: 7 September 2023, Thursday

James 3:13-18

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Read

What does this passage say about earthly wisdom and heavenly wisdom?

Hear

What is God saying to you through this passage today?

Meditate

Consider the characteristics of the “wisdom that comes from heaven” described in the final verses of this chapter. What does that look like in daily life?

Act

Be mindful of your words.

Pray

Lord, I thank you for the power of speech that allows me to speak well of others and to give honour, glory, and praise to you. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Proverbs 3:13-18

- ¹³ Blessed are those who find wisdom,
those who gain understanding,
¹⁴ for she is more profitable than silver
and yields better returns than gold.
¹⁵ She is more precious than rubies;
nothing you desire can compare with her.
¹⁶ Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.
¹⁷ Her ways are pleasant ways,
and all her paths are peace.
¹⁸ She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her;
those who hold her fast will be blessed.

Read

What is the passage about?

Hear

What is God saying to you through this passage today?

Meditate

Simply put, wisdom is the ability to make godly choices. Its goal is to glorify God. Consider what you pursue in life. Is wisdom one of your pursuits? What might be hindering you from pursuing wisdom?

Act

Pursuing wisdom requires intentional and committed decisions. When you choose to do so, God promises to help you (James 1:5). What active steps will you take to pursue wisdom?

Pray

Dear God, thank you for the practical wisdom found in Your words. Guide me to use my words in a way that aligns with a Christ-centred life. Grant me Your wisdom and empower me to express holy love through my words. In Jesus' name, Amen.

How Do I Demonstrate Holy Love In My Actions?

Day 21: 9 September 2023, Saturday

Ephesians 5:15-17

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Read

What does it mean to live wisely?

Hear

What is God saying to you through this passage today?

Meditate

Consider your agenda for today. Are you making the most of every day?

Do you regularly seek to be filled with the Spirit? (Eph. 5:18-20) How has this been reflected in your words and actions?

Act

Take steps to make seeking the grace and guidance of the Spirit a regular part of your life.

Pray

O God, forgive me for the times I have ignored you and selfishly focused on earthly pursuits. Help me live my life in willing submission to the leading and guidance of Your Spirit. May I use my time wisely to bring honour You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

James 3:1-12

¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ² We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

³ When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴ Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. ⁵ Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

⁷ All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

Sermon Notes

My Prayer

How Powerful Is Holy And Loving Speech?

Day 23: 11 September 2023, Monday

James 4:1-3

¹ What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ² You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Read

Read the passage carefully three times.

Hear

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Meditate

Recognise that conflicts and hidden disputes can harm relationships and disrupt group harmony. Reflect on your own selfish desires and evil thoughts. How can you eliminate these actions that displease God?

Act

Make a commitment to God that you are willing to confront your own selfish desires and tendencies for conflict. Depend on God's grace and guidance from the Holy Spirit to let go of self-centredness and show care for others. Write down the name of at least one person you need to care and pray for, and ensure you make time to fulfil your commitment.

Pray

Heavenly Father, grant us strength and wisdom to confront our selfish desires and inclinations to engage in conflict. Replace them with the right attitude and Spirit-empowered motivation. Help us prioritise seeking Your kingdom and Your will instead of pursuing temporary satisfaction and vanity. Transform our hearts so that we may treat others with kindness, tolerance, and love, fostering harmonious relationships with them. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

James 4:4-6

⁴ You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? ⁶ But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

"God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble."

Read

Observe what the passage reveals about the relationship between God and people. How is this relationship described?

Hear

Which keywords or phrases in this passage caught your attention?

Meditate

Have you ever encountered challenges where the values of the world clashed with God's will?

Act

Maintain a humble heart every day and serve God and others with the grace He has given you. Dedicate time each day to study the Bible and live according to its principles. Let your choices demonstrate your love for God.

Pray

Dear Heavenly Father, our Lord, Your words are true and mighty, shaping our spirits and guiding our lives. Assist us in humbling ourselves before You, standing firm against worldly pressures and temptations, and holding fast to Your truth without being swayed by worldly values. May Your Spirit guide us to demonstrate Your love in our daily lives and bring honour to Your name. In the holy name of Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen.

How Powerful Is Holy And Loving Speech?

Day 25: 13 September 2023, Wednesday

James 4:7-10

⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Read

Take your time to carefully read the passage twice and identify its key points.

Hear

Read the passage aloud. Listen attentively to what God is saying to you through it.

Meditate

What does the passage require of our attitudes and behaviours? How can we resist the devil's temptations and maintain a close relationship with God in our daily lives?

Act

In this passage, James presents five suggestions for drawing near to God: 1) Resist the devil, 2) Repent and purify yourself, 3) Cleanse your hands and purify your hearts, 4) Be single-minded in your love for God, 5) Humble yourself before the Lord. Regularly examine yourself in these five areas and seek God's help to draw closer to Him.

Pray

Dear Heavenly Father, we ask you to make us humble and help us to submit to Your will. Our hearts yearn to draw near to You. Please cleanse our hands and purify our hearts, shaping us into servants who are pleasing to You. Help us resist the temptations of the devil and transform our hearts from seeking worldly pleasure to sincere repentance and sorrow, so that we may find Your mercy and draw even closer to You. In the precious name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

How Powerful Is Holy And Loving Speech?

Day 26: 14 September 2023, Thursday

James 4:11-12

¹¹ Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. ¹² There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

Read

Carefully read the passage twice. Underline any repeated words you come across.

Hear

Once again, read the passage aloud and listen attentively to what God is saying to you through these words.

Meditate

Examine your own behavior and how you interact with others. Do you find yourself criticising and judging others often? What does God say about that?

Act

When interacting and communicating with others, be mindful of the impact your actions and words have on them. Choose to speak words that build others up, while refraining from nitpicking their faults.

Pray

Dear God, we humbly ask for Your guidance in our interactions with others. Help us resist the urge to criticise and judge. Teach us to understand our roles and responsibilities, and to follow Your guidance. Grant us the ability to demonstrate love, respect, and kindness, and to refrain from quick judgement. May our words and actions reflect Your love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

How Powerful Is Holy And Loving Speech?

Day 27: 15 September 2023, Friday

1 John 2:15-17

¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Read

Read the passage slowly twice. Count how many times the word "world" appears in the text.

Hear

Read the passage aloud once more. What message do you perceive God speaking to you through these words?

Meditate

Have you allowed yourself to be influenced by the values of the world? Do you find yourself prioritising worldly desires such as the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life? How can you effectively resist the desires of the world and their influence?

Act

Engage in church and small group activities, pursuing God's will together with your brothers and sisters. Strive to consistently live a lifestyle that reflects the values of the kingdom of God.

Pray

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for your abundant grace and unwavering love. We repent for being easily swayed by the allure of the world and forgetting that you are the supreme and most glorious God. Please forgive us for our weaknesses and shortcomings. Guide our thoughts and actions, helping us understand that the temptations of the world are fleeting and deceptive, while your ways are true and eternal. Strengthen our faith so that we may resist the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. May our lives reflect the values of the kingdom and bring You joy. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Romans 12:1-2

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Read

Carefully read the passage and underline the phrases that contain verbs.

Hear

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Meditate

Are you truly offering your body as a living sacrifice? Are you willing to be set apart from the ways of this world? Consider how your mind can genuinely be renewed to seek and practice God's good, pleasing, and perfect will.

Act

Based on the teachings of this passage, develop a specific action plan to align your life with God's pleasing will. Consider engaging in a fast or abstaining from a negative habit in your life this week.

Pray

Loving Saviour, thank you for saving us and transforming us into new creations. Grant us the strength to wholeheartedly offer ourselves, our lives, and everything we possess as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to you. Renew our minds and enable us to live according to your good, pleasing, and perfect will, bringing glory to your name in our daily lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

What Does Holy Love Have To Do With My Money?

Day 29: 17 September 2023, Sunday

James 5:1-6

¹ Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. ² Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. ³ Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. ⁴ Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. ⁵ You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

Sermon Notes

My Prayer

What Does Holy Love Have To Do With My Money?

Day 30: 18 September 2023, Monday

James 4:13-17

¹³ Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” ¹⁴ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.

Read

Read the passage three times. The first time, read it silently; the second time, read it aloud; and the third time, engage in a dialogue with yourself as you read.

Hear

Listen attentively to the scripture you have read. Pay attention to words, phrases, or sentences that resonate with you, and circle them.

Meditate

- a. Reflect on the essence of life. Between accumulating wealth and gaining life, which one is your priority?
- b. Ponder the relationship between wealth, doing good, and sin. Do you agree with the teachings in this passage?

Act

Take a practical step to care for family members, colleagues, friends, or even strangers in need.

Pray

Merciful Heavenly Father, thank you for teaching us that life is fleeting and not within our control. Wealth, too, is temporary and should not become the centre of our lives. Help us to remain humble, recognising that the wealth we possess is not our own achievement but a gift from You, our Heavenly Father. May we never forget that all glory belongs to You. Teach us to understand that wealth is not meant for personal gratification but should be used to meet the needs of others and to do good. Help us to pray with an attitude of submission to Your will, acknowledging Your sovereignty and seeking Your guidance in our actions and behaviour. In Jesus' name. Amen.

What Does Holy Love Have To Do With My Money?

Day 31: 19 September 2023, Tuesday

James 5:1-6

¹ Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. ² Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. ³ Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. ⁴ Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. ⁵ You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

Read

Take your time and read the passage, paying attention to each word. Repeat this process three times.

Hear

Try to discern the emotions conveyed by the author's words. Listen for God's perspective on the behaviour of the world. Write down any impressions you receive.

Meditate

- a. What harm can wealth bring if it is not used properly?
- b. If you witness exploitation and oppression, how would you respond?

Act

If you have ever oppressed or exploited others, confess your sins and repent before the Lord. Starting today, be more attentive to the needs of vulnerable groups and offer them wise assistance.

Pray

Merciful Heavenly Father, we know You are a compassionate and just Lord. You do not despise the oppressed or the broken in spirit. You look after orphans and widows. You have mercy on the vulnerable and needy. Please help us exercise self-control and avoid the greedy accumulation of wealth, which can lead to neglecting the needs of others and causing them harm. As the light and salt of the world, enable us to be more attentive to the needs of those around us, and to extend care to them willingly, thereby living out the true meaning of holy love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

²² “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

²⁵ “But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

²⁷ “He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

²⁹ “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

³⁰ ““No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

³¹ “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

What Does Holy Love Have To Do With My Money?

Day 32: 20 September 2023, Wednesday

Read

Begin by reading the passage aloud once, and then read it again silently.

Hear

Imagine yourself in the position of the rich man. What would Abraham say to you? Read the passage again, this time listening attentively to what God is saying to you.

Meditate

- a. How does the fate of the rich man change your thoughts, attitudes, and actions towards the poor?
- b. How does the truth about life and judgment revealed in this passage shape your future conduct and behaviour?

Act

Is there a specific person in need who comes to mind? What can you do for him/her? Through prayer, ask the Lord to help you take practical steps to assist the person.

Pray

Merciful Heavenly Father, as we confront the truth about life, we understand that judgment is real. We need to account for our actions before Your righteous judgment. Lord, grant us understanding and a repentant heart, that we may cease pursuing earthly wealth and indulging in self-centred pleasures. Help us realise the emptiness of a life of abundance and luxury, while neglecting the eternal destiny that awaits us at the end of this life. Lord, help us focus on pursuing eternal values, being willing to extend a helping hand to those in need, and using our wealth for the benefit of others. In doing so, may we live a life characterised by holy love and bring glory to Your name. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

What Does Holy Love Have To Do With My Money?

Day 33: 21 September 2023, Thursday

1 Timothy 6:9-11; 17-19

⁹ Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

¹¹ But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Read

Read the passage aloud twice, and then read it again silently.

Hear

Pay attention to the recurring messages that God is impressing upon you through this passage.

Meditate

- Why is the love of money the "root of all kinds of evil"? Consider examples such as greed and other negative traits.
- In light of the teachings presented in this passage, how will you change your attitude and behaviour towards earning and using money?

Act

Take practical steps to change how you handle and allocate your finances based on your reflections above

Pray

Merciful Heavenly Father, in our ignorance, we can become ensnared by the allure of wealth, leading us to entertain behaviours that dishonour You and divert us from the path of truth. Lord, help us recognise that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Deliver us from greed and the relentless pursuit of material wealth. Teach us not to place our trust in the uncertain riches of this world but to depend solely on You, the God who richly provides us with everything. Furthermore, Lord, instil in us a generous heart that willingly shares the abundance You have given us and strives to do good to bring glory to Your name. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

What Does Holy Love Have To Do With My Money?

Day 34: 22 September 2023, Friday

Deuteronomy 15:6-8

⁶ For the Lord your God will bless you as he has promised, and you will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. You will rule over many nations but none will rule over you.

⁷ If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard hearted or tight fisted toward them. ⁸ Rather, be openhanded and freely lend them whatever they need.

Read

Begin by reading the passage aloud twice. On the third reading, identify and circle the words that carry significance to you.

Hear

Read the passage silently again. Listen to what God is saying to you.

Meditate

Why do you think God blesses believers? What is the relationship between God's blessings and acts of kindness? Finally, consider how you will respond to these insights.

Act

Write down two specific actions that you can take to generously bless those around you. Commit to putting them into practice during the upcoming week.

Pray

Merciful Heavenly Father, thank you for being a God who blesses abundantly. You command us to be generous, relying not on our limited abilities but on Your abundant grace. Soften our hardened hearts, Lord, and fill us with goodness and love. Move us to actively care for the poor, the orphaned, the widowed, and the vulnerable. May we extend a helping hand to them and generously share the blessings we have received from You. Guide us to use our wealth in the right way, not becoming enslaved to money but using it to help others and bring glory to God. In the name of our Lord Jesus, I pray. Amen.

What Does Holy Love Have To Do With My Money?

Day 35: 23 September 2023, Saturday

Matthew 6:19-24

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²² “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Read

Read the passage aloud twice, and circle the words that touch your heart.

Hear

Slowly and silently read the passage again. Pay attention to what God is saying to you.

Meditate

- a. Examine your heart. Is it focused on earthly wealth or on things of eternal and spiritual value?
- b. Reflect on the state of your spiritual life. Who is your master, God or Money?

Act

Begin each morning by reminding yourself first that the Lord Jehovah is your Master. Pray to Him, seeking His guidance throughout your day, and acknowledge Him as your Lord over every aspect of your life.

Pray

Merciful Heavenly Father, thank You for reminding us that there is only one Master of our lives, and that is You. May Your light shine upon our hearts, directing our focus towards spiritual and eternal matters. Teach us to learn to store up treasures in heaven instead of pursuing material pleasures excessively. Help us, Lord, to prioritise You as the Lord of our lives, and to live according to the values and principles revealed in the Scriptures. Through faithful service and the righteous use of wealth for acts of kindness, may we reflect Your love and righteousness in our lives. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

How Do I Live Out Holy Love In Prayer And Worship?

Day 36: 24 September 2023, Sunday

James 5:13-20

¹³ Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

¹⁷ Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, ²⁰ remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Sermon Notes

My Prayer

James 5:7-11

⁷ Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹ Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰ Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Read

Read slowly and notice how the word "patient" is repeated in the passage. What other repeated words do you see?

Hear

What is God trying to remind you through this passage?

Meditate

Verse 9 says "Don't grumble against one another." Recall a time when you have grumbled about a fellow brother or sister in Christ. Consider the example of Job and how he remained faithful to God in the midst of suffering and accusations from his friends.

Act

Think of someone you need to be patient with, and make a conscious effort to be patient with them this week.

Pray

God of peace, You have commanded us to love one another. Strengthen my heart, that I may be patient with others even when it is difficult to do so. May I learn to bear with one another in love with all humility and gentleness, eagerly maintaining the unity of the Spirit with the bond of peace. In the face of challenges and struggles, help me remain steadfast and faithful; that Your purposes may be fulfilled. In Jesus' name. Amen.

How Do I Live Out Holy Love In Prayer And Worship?

Day 38: 26 September 2023, Tuesday

Romans 5:1-5

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Read

Read slowly and observe how Paul connects one idea to the next.

Hear

Which word(s) or phrase stood out to you as you read? What is God telling you through this passage?

Meditate

Verse 5 says that "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit." Reflect on how God's love has been poured into your life, bringing you joy and hope.

Act

How can you rejoice in hope this week? If you are going through sufferings and difficulties, seek God for endurance to weather through.

Pray

O Lord, your word reminds me that since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through Jesus. Thank you that I can stand in Your abundant grace and rejoice in hope because of Jesus. Grant me strength to persevere through hardships. I also pray for those who are suffering in body, mind and spirit (you may pray for specific individuals by name), asking for Your mercy and abiding presence in their lives. Pour forth Your love into our lives we pray, that we will go on to love those in our family and community. In Jesus' name. Amen.

How Do I Live Out Holy Love In Prayer And Worship?

Day 39: 27 September 2023, Wednesday

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Read

As you read, identify the contrasting words (e.g., outwardly and inwardly, wasting away and being renewed). What do these contrasting words remind us of what we should be focusing on?

Hear

What is God reminding you through this passage?

Meditate

Verse 16 reminds us that while “outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.” Reflect on what this verse means for you in your current season of life. Spend time with God and allow Him to renew your inner self.

Act

“Fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen” (v18). What is God prompting you to pay attention to?

Pray

God of renewal, thank you for reminding me that the light and momentary troubles we face in our daily lives are preparing for us an eternal glory found in Christ that far outweighs them all. Abide me with Jesus and renew me day by day. Strengthen me so that I do not lose heart in this challenging world. Guide my eyes to focus not on things that the world encourages me to see, but on the things that matter to You, the things that have eternal significance. In Jesus' name. Amen.

How Do I Live Out Holy Love In Prayer And Worship?

Day 40: 28 September 2023, Thursday

James 5:12-18

¹² Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple “Yes” or “No.” Otherwise you will be condemned.

¹³ Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

¹⁷ Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

Read

As you read, observe what the passage says about prayer.

Hear

What is God reminding you through this passage?

Meditate

Verse 17 talks about Elijah, who prayed earnestly. Reflect on what it means for you to pray earnestly. Consider some people you would like to lift up in prayer.

Act

“Prayer is a powerful weapon even in the hands of the humblest believer, it does not require a ‘super saint’ to wield it effectively.” In your small groups, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other.

Pray

Heavenly Father, Your Word reminds us that a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick. So we lift up **(name)** in prayer, asking for their healing and restoration. Train me up in the discipline of prayer, remind me to come to You whether in happiness or in need. I confess my sins before You, asking for Your forgiveness and restoration through your Son. We pray in the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.

How Do I Live Out Holy Love In Prayer And Worship?

Day 41: 29 September 2023, Friday

1 John 5:14-15

¹⁴ This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

Read

Read the passage slowly and repeatedly. What condition does God require of us when we ask anything from Him?

Hear

What words of confidence is God speaking to you as you approach Him?

Meditate

"It is by prayer that we seek God's will, embrace it and align ourselves with it." Ponder on verse 14. What is God's will for you in this season? Are you aligning to His will or are you trying to bend His will to yours?

Act

Spend some time praying to God. Present your requests to Him and be assured that if you ask anything according to His will, He hears you.

Pray

Our Father in heaven, holy is Your name! Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Forgive me for the times when I have been stubborn and disobedient to Your will. Soften my heart that I may catch a glimpse of Your purposes. I present my requests to You God, and may Your peace that surpasses all understanding guard my heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.

How Do I Live Out Holy Love In Prayer And Worship?

Day 42: 30 September 2023, Saturday

James 5:19-20

¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, ²⁰ remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Read

As you read, consider James' final instruction to his fellow believers.

Hear

What is God reminding you through this passage?

Meditate

Reflect on verse 20 and the significance behind bringing someone back to the truth. Does our Christian responsibility include caring for the faith of others too?

Act

Reaching out to a fellow brother or sister who has wandered from the truth is an act of holy love. Think of someone you know who has strayed. What practical ways can you reach out? Seek to reach out in the coming weeks.

Pray

O Lord, my heart is filled with thankfulness as I approach the conclusion of these 40 days of Bible reading. Thank you for Your Word that has taught, rebuked, corrected and trained me in righteousness. Grant me a heart of boldness and love as I reach out to family and friends who have wandered from Your truth. Reveal Your heart for the lost to me, and open up opportunities to start faith conversations with others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

What Has Holy Love Have To Do With God's Mission/Discipleship?

Day 43: 1 October 2023, Sunday

James 5:19-20

¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, ²⁰ remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Sermon Notes

My Prayer



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