

Grow, Pray, Study for the Week of October 19, 2025

Weekly Prayer

Creator God, surround me with your Spirit, and ground me in your love. Deepen my connection to you, and to my neighbor, that your love flourishes within and around me. In the name of your Son, my Redeemer, I pray, Amen.

Monday, October 20

Scripture: John 15:1-12

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vineyard keeper. He removes any of my branches that don't produce fruit, and he trims any branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit. You are already trimmed because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch can't produce fruit by itself, but must remain in the vine. Likewise, you can't produce fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can't do anything. If you don't remain in me, you will be like a branch that is thrown out and dries up. Those branches are gathered up, thrown into a fire, and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified when you produce much fruit and in this way prove that you are my disciples. As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you.

Observation

Six times, the word "remain" appears in this passage. Other translations use the word "abide," each reminding us that in all our lives, we are connected to God. God does not leave us, and through this connection, we are nurtured and strengthened in our faith. How do you "remain" or "abide" in God?

Application

We live in a culture that emphasizes individuality and are often taught to "pull ourselves up" by our own strength and determination. God offers another perspective. How do our priorities, or definitions of success, change when we see ourselves as one part of the whole?

Prayer

Reflect and pray the words of the hymn, "Bind Us Together" (*The Faith We Sing*, #2226):
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.
There is only one God, there is only one King;
There is only body, that is why we sing.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.

Tuesday, October 21

Scripture: Proverbs 3:27-28

Don't withhold good from someone who deserves it,
when it is in your power to do so.

Don't say to your neighbor, "Go and come back;
I'll give it to you tomorrow," when you have it.

Observation

Recently, one of my boys asked for something, and I responded, "we'll see." Quickly, my son said, "Mom, I think that just means no." They learn this quickly, don't they? This Proverb reminds us not to wait on our "yes" when it's in our ability to do so. Instead, we are to say yes quickly and joyfully, just as God so generously gives to us.

Application

Somewhere, my kids learned of a "yes day" - that is when we say yes to whatever is (reasonably) asked. They love these days! It makes them feel good, knowing that they have our full attention and support. And it's fun for me too, to make their day saying yes to usually simple requests. Dessert first? Yes! Dinner and a movie? Yes! How might your connections to others deepen if we turn our "maybe" into a "yes"? Try it today and see how your connection blooms!

Prayer

Gracious God, you are faithful, forgiving, and generous to me. Mold me in your image, that I too, am gracious, forgiving, and generous to others. Amen.

Wednesday October 22

Scripture: Colossians 1:1-6

From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will, and Timothy our brother.
To the holy and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

We always give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you. We've done this since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all God's people. You have this faith and love because of the hope reserved for you in heaven. You previously heard about this hope through the true message, the good news, which has come to you. This message has been bearing fruit and growing among you since the day you heard and truly understood God's grace, in the same way that it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world.

Observation

Paul begins this letter with a greeting grounded in joy and thanksgiving. He applauds their faith, and reminds them that this hope in Christ, which they practice daily, has "been bearing fruit and growing among you." The fruit they bear is not for their benefit only, but for the world.

Application

Beloved child of God, look around. Your faith has been bearing much fruit. Do you see it? Do you feel it? Don't be discouraged, but trust that the love of God is alive and at work in you.

Prayer

God, our great Creator, you have loved me beyond measure and remained steadfast through every season. Help me to notice your presence and share your goodness with those I meet. Amen.

Thursday, October 23

Scripture: Romans 12:9-13

Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil and hold on to what is good. Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other. Don't hesitate to be enthusiastic—be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord! Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you're in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer. Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home.

Observation

Love without pretending. Don't hesitate to be enthusiastic. Be happy in hope. Contribute to the needs of God's people. These are all part of Paul's words to the Romans, and are wise words for our daily living, too. This is how we live as people of God, extending to others the same loving care we have received.

Application

Read through this passage again, and notice: which of these come easily? Which do you struggle to do? Ask God to guide your words and actions today, that you might grow in your connection to God and one another.

Prayer

Good and loving God, you have made me for connection. Forgive me when I falter and give me courage to try again. Guide me, that I "love what is good" and embody your good news in all I say and do. Amen.

Friday, October 24**Scripture: Matthew 7:7-12**

Ask, and you will receive. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Whoever seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door is opened. Who among you will give your children a stone when they ask for bread? Or give them a snake when they ask for fish? If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him. Therefore, you should treat people in the same way that you want people to treat you; this is the Law and the Prophets.

Observation

All of scripture invites us to love God and love one another. But nowhere does God expect that we have all the answers, or follow Christ perfectly. Instead, we're given grace, forgiveness, and encouragement in our living. Here, we're reminded and encouraged: "Ask, and you will receive. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Whoever seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door is opened."

Application

Is it easy for you to ask for help? Direction? Many of us struggle to ask, feeling like it makes us appear weak or unprepared. But Jesus reminds us that part of following is asking for help. We learn and grow when we dare to admit we need help, or don't know it all. Take time today to earnestly seek God's wisdom and guidance, then notice how God responds!

Prayer

God you are ever more ready to listen than we are to ask. Give me humility to admit the places I need help, and the courage to seek your guidance. Surround me with your grace, and show me the way. Amen.

Saturday, October 25

Scripture: Luke 14:7-11

When Jesus noticed how the guests sought out the best seats at the table, he told them a parable. "When someone invites you to a wedding celebration, don't take your seat in the place of honor. Someone more highly regarded than you could have been invited by your host. The host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give your seat to this other person.' Embarrassed, you will take your seat in the least important place. Instead, when you receive an invitation, go and sit in the least important place. When your host approaches you, he will say, 'Friend, move up here to a better seat.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. All who lift themselves up will be brought low, and those who make themselves low will be lifted up."

Observation

Jesus encourages us to take a posture of humility, where we can receive the generosity of God and one another. Just as we are called to be a people who give and care for others, it's important that we receive these gifts, as well. When we sit at the feet of Jesus, we keep ourselves open to growing and deepening our faith.

Application

How might you position yourself in a place of humility, where you can receive the generosity and wisdom of others? How might God be calling you to grow in your connections to God and others, by receiving their goodness and care?

Prayer

God of life, speak to me today. Help me to be humble, that I might grow in understanding and faith. Amen.