



*A Lenten Devotional*  
2018



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
MARYSVILLE



Friends,

I am so thankful for all of you who submitted some of your personal SOAP pages for this Lenten Devotional. The SOAP method for Bible Study comes from *The Divine Mentor* by Wayne Cordeiro. It is a simple practice of choosing a single verse of Scripture. You write an Observation about the text and then you write a personal Application. Finally, you use your thoughts to form a Prayer.

As you read these pages, you will discover a rich treasure of insight into God's word from your brothers and sisters here at FUMC. Twice a week, I invite you to join your church family in looking at a given passage of Scripture and then participating in the SOAP practice yourself. I pray these will be meaningful times as you invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you through the Scriptures and to lead your heart (and pen) in response. Because God will speak in many ways through the same passage of Scripture, you may want to share your SOAP pages in your Sunday School classes or small groups.

I kept the SOAP pages as the writer presented them, except for a few minor editorial changes for clarity or confidentiality. I have chosen to keep the identities of the writers anonymous. I was not able to use all of the pages submitted, but chose those that correlate with our Lenten theme, which is the seven "I AM" statements of Jesus in the gospel of John. Jesus made both his identity and his mission clear when he said:

*I am the Light of the World*  
*I am the Gate*  
*I am the Bread of Life*  
*I am the Good Shepherd*  
*I am the Vine*  
*I am the Way, the Truth and the Life*  
*I am the Resurrection and the Life*

I trust you will be blessed as we go on this Lenten journey together, drawing near to Jesus as he reveals himself through his own words.

Pastor Aaron

# Leave All to Follow Jesus

Wednesday, February 14

**Thoughts from Pastor Aaron:** As we begin this Lenten journey together, Jesus is calling you to get up and follow him. As we consider the “I am...” statements of Jesus, we will discover that he is all that we need for this adventure. One day last year in prayer, I sensed Jesus asking, “Wanna go on an adventure?” Here are my thoughts I wrote in my prayer journal:

*An adventure with Jesus would be more than just going out for a scenic ride together. There would be moments of high drama and even times of great risk. Even if I knew Jesus was leading this adventure, these times would not be a cakewalk without feelings of fear and rushes of adrenaline. There would likely be times I may want to quit or go back. An adventure without obstacles and struggles would not be much of an adventure. Consider the Star Wars saga or the Lord of the Rings. These are great adventures because of the conflicts and moments when all seems lost. The celebration at the end is all the more sweet because of the struggle. Which feels better...the celebration after a quiet tube ride down an easy flowing river or after a day of rafting down roaring rapids? So Jesus, YES!!! Yes! I wanna go on an adventure. Let me through the twists and turns. Lead me through the struggles.*

**Scripture:** *As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. Matthew 9:9*

**Observation:** In the midst of this chapter which tells of Jesus healing the demon-possessed, the blind, the paralyzed, a woman with years of hemorrhaging, and a young girl brought back to life, Jesus calls Matthew to leave his job, his wealth as a tax collector, and his family and serve him as a disciple.

**Application:** Matthew, as the other disciples, had left all he had to follow Jesus. If a man of Jesus' purpose, reputation, mission, and character approached me today and said simply, “Follow me!” I probably wouldn't do it. I'd have questions; I'd want to know where I'd be going, what I'd be doing and who else was coming etc.

**Prayer:** Lord, you chose each disciple carefully and entirely for your plan and purpose. Jesus needed each one and they needed and served him. I pray that as You choose people to follow you this day and age, that they willingly follow you. Show me how I should follow you today.

**Question:** *How is God calling you to get up and follow him during this season of Lent?*

**Prayer Focus:** *Our church*

*Join us tonight for an Ash Wednesday service of repentance and preparation. We meet at 7:00 in the sanctuary.*

# When Walking In the Light Seems Dark

Thursday, February 15

**Scripture:** *A person's steps are directed by the LORD. How can anyone understand their own way?*  
*Proverbs 20:24*

**Observation:** If we believe God to be sovereign, we have to accept that he directs our path and sometimes that means walking in the dark!

**Application:** I have tried to accept this wisdom and truth in the past several years and it does provide me a ton of peace because surrender is at the core. What I struggle with is not having dreams or goals! Especially now that my life has been stripped naked. I have no dreams or goals. I am present in each day waiting for God to direct my path. In a sense I am living out God's dreams, but I cannot see them.

**Prayer:** Lord, encourage me today by lighting my path a little beyond my toes so I can glean your dreams. Amen



**Scripture:** *Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God. But now, all you who light fires and provide yourselves with flaming torches, go, walk in the light of your fires... Isaiah 50:10-11*

**Observation:** Over the last 10 chapters of Isaiah, God has been saying over and over, "I am your God and creator. I am the only God and all other gods are foolish and blind. I am your redeemer. You can trust me." These verses summarize these thoughts. God is saying that it is better to walk in the dark trusting in him than to try to make your own light.

**Application:** How often we try to make our own way in the dark times of life rather than trusting in God. I think of Abraham and the birth of Ishmael rather than waiting for Isaac to be born. He was making his own way when God had something else. It is hard to trust in the darkness when one doesn't see or feel the light of Christ. But God has made it plain that He is always with us.

**Prayer:** God, help me to trust you even in the darkness. I am a little nervous, but I am trusting you. Even the darkness of the future is as light to you. I trust you today.

**Question:** *What areas of your life seem to be in darkness? Can you trust Jesus who says, "I am the Light of the World?"*

**Prayer Focus:** *Our church staff*

# He Lights Our Way

Friday, February 16

**Scripture:** *You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. Psalm 16:11*

**Observation:** Light the way, my path that leads to life eternal. With you, O Lord, is everything good and lovely and joyful and pleasurable until the end of all time. Fix my eyes on You.

**Application:** Wow, what a timely verse today, choosing the right path. But as long as the paths are laid before us by You and we follow You in obedience, I don't believe there is a wrong path. I will follow you. Whether that means staying put or moving on, Lord, because you are EVERYWHERE. Everywhere in your presence is full of joy and love and all things good. The life we lead is a gift back to you! I believe that we honor You when we use our gifts the best of our ability – even when it is hard or uncomfortable. Even working in an environment that is not righteous. Even when our path moves us away from those that we love. We never stray from You or the path that you place before us. We follow where you lead with obedience. Because, after all, life here is only temporary. The really good stuff is still yet to come!

**Prayer:** Lord, keep my eyes focused on You – on the path which You would have me to go. You lead, I follow. I love you, Lord.

**Share your response to this SOAP reflection:**

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**Question:** *What areas of your life seem to be in darkness? Can you trust Jesus who says, "I am the Light of the World?"*

**Prayer Focus:** *Central Ohio Emmaus Community and upcoming women's walk April 19-22. (It is not too late to register a pilgrim for the walk. Applications can be picked up at the church office.)*

# I am the Light of the World

Saturday and Sunday, February 17-18

Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you as read and reflect on John 1:1-14. Pick one verse or thought and write a SOAP reflection.

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**A**pplication:

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**P**rayer:

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**Prayer Focus:** *Tony and Carrie Given and family serving in India*

## It All Starts at the Gate

Monday, February 19

**Scripture:** *“But the one who receives the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.” Matthew 13:23*

**Observation:** The parable of the sower says that the Word is either lost or it grows. There is no middle way of hearing and understanding but not yielding a crop. Makes me wonder about people who say they believe, but don't appear to live it out.

**Application:** I really want to be productive for the kingdom. I will pray and work to that end.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, so many of your words are comforting, some are challenges, and some are warnings. Help me to hear it all. Amen.



**Scripture:** *I have chosen the way of faithfulness. I have set my heart on your laws. Psalm 119:30*

**Observation:** Being faithful to and adhering to God's law is a choice.

**Application:** I accepted Christ in my mid 30s and began choosing to be faithful to God's ways and commandments. Honestly though I didn't know them! It would take me many many years to respectfully choose God's ways and laws. Over the years as God encouraged me to follow his ways I was compelled to write apology letters to those I have hurt or mistreated. I was seeing my sins clearly as I choose to walk closer to him. I know HE was encouraging me but it was my choice to straighten up and fly right.

**Prayer:** Almighty God, Thank you for your passionate pursuit and patience with me. Seal my heart so I may continue a faithful walk.

**Thoughts from Pastor Aaron:** Today's writers remind us that entering through the gate is just the first step of following Jesus. Our second writer wasn't content to simply "accept Christ." We must not get drawn into the lie that simply because we pray a "sinner's prayer" that is all we ever have to do. We are called not only to enter through the narrow gate, but also to walk down the narrow road. It was in walking with Christ that our writer began to grow. Walking with Jesus results in fruit such as that displayed by our writer's letters of apology.

**Question:** *Are there any letters of apology that you need to write?*



**Prayer Focus:** *Those who have offended you.*

# Grace for the Journey

Tuesday, February 20

**Scripture:** *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:8-10*

**Observation:** I do not deserve God's grace, but I do believe that he loves me in spite of all my shortcomings. If it were not so, God would not have sent one and only son Jesus Christ to suffer and die for me. When I think of Jesus on that cross, I cannot NOT believe. I want to change my life and be a better person

**Application:** I must continue to grow in my relationship with God through prayer and study. I must move on from my mistakes, not forgetting them, but learning from them. I want to seek God's wisdom for me and learn to trust Him more. Today is a new day; I start with a clean slate. Today I choose to walk with Jesus allowing Him to lead the way.

**Prayer:** Dear Father God, forgive my ugly words, thoughts and actions. I accept your precious gift of forgiving grace. Come into my heart. I want to live a life that is worthy of your great love. Thank you, Father. Thank you. Amen



**Scripture:** *Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. Ezekiel 33:10*

**Observation:** Our sins can control us if we allow them to. They will drive us to the deepest pit of despair. Our only hope is to confess our sins and constantly work on not repeating them.

**Application:** I am a sinner by default but I can trust in Jesus to make me accountable to not sin or to not offend anyone.

**Prayer:** Jesus, you are the only one who can forgive me. Forgive my sin and show me how to be holy in your name. It makes us both unhappy when I slip and fall. But you are always there to pick me up. Amen.

**Question:** *What sins have been weighing you down? Can you receive grace for the journey?*

**Prayer Focus:** *Those in prison*

# Enter Through the Gate

Wednesday, February 21

Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you as read and reflect on Matthew 7:13-27. Pick one verse or thought and write a SOAP reflection.

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**A**pplication:

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**P**rayer:

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**Prayer Focus:** *Pastor Edgani and our sister church in Barbosa Cuba*

## Abounding Love

Thursday, February 22

**Scripture:** *You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you.  
Psalm 86:5*

**Observation:** Forgiving, good and love. What wonderful qualities of God. “You are” – present tense – not you were or will be. What does it mean to say, “God is good?” Do I see you as a good God? Abounding in love? What a great picture. A good thing that *abounds*—that implies that there is more than enough. The only requirement for all of this is that we call to you. Calling on you implies faith. The entire Psalm is about calling to God in faith. Why call on God if he is not forgiving, good and loving? Too often we call on God as if he were not those things. We stew in guilt as if we have to earn his forgiveness. We beg and plead as if God were not good.

**Application:** I want to call on God and pray from the position of one who knows God’s heart. How my prayers would be different if I knew that God is all that this verse says He is. I can fully rest in the arms of my Father who is forgiving, good and abounding in love.

**Prayer:** O God, you are forgiving. All my sins are forgiven through the blood of Jesus. And you are good. I don’t have to earn your goodness. You have shown your goodness to me in so many ways. How many rich blessings you have given to me!

**Question:** *Consider how richly God has blessed you...can you write 15 blessings that show God’s abounding love to you?*

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**Prayer Focus:** *The Body of Christ in Marysville*

# Turn to Christ Even When Tempted to Doubt

Friday, February 23

**Scripture:** *Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me." Matthew 11:4-6*

**Observation:** Jesus answered John's doubts (John was in prison) by pointing to his acts of healing the blind, lame and deaf, curing the lepers, raising the dead, and preaching the good news to the poor. With so much evidence, Jesus' identity was obvious. ...If you sometimes doubt your salvation, the forgiveness of your sins, or God's work in your life, look at the evidence in Scripture and the changes in your life. When you doubt, don't turn away from Christ, turn to him.

**Application:** And when we are on Jesus' side and take no offense at him and his healing miracles, his raising the dead and his preaching good news to the poor, then we can know that in repenting of our sins, they are forgiven. We have established a righteous relationship with God and have eternal life after human death. I believe Jesus is the son of God. I believe in the Apostle's Creed. I believe in all Jesus taught and did.

**Prayer:** Lord, forgive my doubts and continue to love. Thank you for your Holy Spirit.

**Thoughts from Pastor Aaron:** Today's writer reminds us that even after we have gone through the gate and are walking with Jesus, there will be times of doubt and uncertainty. The writer asks us to consider John the Baptist. John never expected to be in prison...he was to be the forerunner of the messiah. He most likely thought he would be partners with Jesus for life. But instead he finds himself in prison. He must have thought, "It isn't supposed to be like this. This couldn't be from God." This great man of faith had moments of doubt because doubt is natural when circumstances don't make sense. However, we must remember that doubt is not sin. Consider how Jesus responds to John's doubts. Jesus simply says, "Tell John what you see. The evidence will convince him." There is a difference between unbelief and doubt. Unbelief says, "You are not the one..." Doubt says, "Are you the one...?" Doubt is answered by looking at the evidence.

**Question:** *What evidence have you seen recently that confirms your faith in Jesus?*

**Prayer Focus:** *Bluegrass Concert tonight*

# I am the Gate

Saturday and Sunday, February 24-25

Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you as read and reflect on John 10:1-10. Pick one verse or thought and write a SOAP reflection.

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**P**rayer:

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**Prayer Focus:** *Creative Preschool staff and students*

## Jesus Cares for the Hungry

Monday, February 26

**Scripture:** *During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance." Mark 8:1-3*

**Observation:** "I have compassion for these people..." These six words summarize Jesus' heart and mission. He has compassion. These verses show that he is concerned with more than just our spiritual lives. He is concerned that they had no food. The reality is that they had probably eaten the day they came and perhaps had a few leftovers for the next day. Therefore, they were not going to starve if they went another day or waited till they got home. Most could have purchased food somewhere along the long distance to their home. However, Jesus had compassion on them because they were hungry. Jesus himself had recently fasted for forty days. He knew what true hunger felt like, but he had compassion on those who were hungry.

**Application:** Does his compassion flow out of the fact that they had "been with me"? Is it possible that just being with Jesus stirs his compassion? Do I long to be with Jesus? Am I willing to drop everything and spend three days with him? Am I willing to be more hungry for Jesus as the living bread than I am for physical bread? Jesus is aware of my hunger both physically and spiritually. He has compassion on me when I hunger for him. And when I choose to fast, he takes notice of my hunger and it stirs his compassion.

**Prayer:** Jesus, help me to know that my hunger stirs you. You know what hunger feels like and you are pleased when I simply want to spend time with you. Come and feel me today.

**Question:** *What "long distance" are you willing to go to be with Jesus?*

**Prayer Focus:** *Pastor Aaron, Pastor Bill and Pastor Peggy*

# Satisfied

Tuesday, February 27

**Thoughts from Pastor Aaron:** Yesterday's writer took us to the story of Jesus feeding the multitude. In that story, Jesus truly had compassion on the oppressed and spent himself on the hungry. That text says, "The people ate and were satisfied." (Mark 8:8) Today's writer reminds us that God is always willing to satisfy our needs. But he also asks us to satisfy the needs of others...

**Scripture:** *"If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Isaiah 58:9-11*

**Observation:** This is a conditional promise. God promises to guide, satisfy and strengthen us if we deal with others in a way that honors him. We want God to bless us even while we withhold blessing from others with our malicious talk and our unwillingness to meet the needs of the oppressed. We want God to guide us, but few of us want to spend ourselves on behalf of others. God promises to satisfy our needs, but sometimes we want more than satisfaction. Sometimes we are not content unless there is overindulgence. We supersize our fast-food meal and in the end we feel more bloated than satisfied. We forget that a well-watered garden is not a saturated garden.

**Application:** I want to be like a spring whose waters never fail. Not a mighty rushing river, just a simple spring that freely meets the needs of those who are thirsty and come for a drink. I don't want to be a gushing fountain some weeks and a dry spring other weeks.

**Prayer:** How I need you to guide me always. Let me rest in your satisfaction.

**Question:** *What needs do you have that you would like God to satisfy? What needs in others do you see around you that God can use you to help satisfy?*

**Prayer Focus:** *The Hope Center*



# The Broken Bread

Wednesday, February 28

Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you as read and reflect on 1 Corinthians 11:23-32. Pick one verse or thought and write a SOAP reflection.

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**Prayer Focus:** *Emily Cole serving in Memphis TN*

## Feed On His Word

Thursday, March 1

**Scripture:** *For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Romans 15:4*

**Observation:** Even when my life is calm, the world around me is full of chaos. When I neglect to spend time in the Word with God, that chaos seeps into my life and I begin to drift off my life's path. Only when I return to the Word and trust God to lead, am I set straight again.

**Application:** What works best for me is to spend time with God every morning and to continue to stay connected to with Him throughout my entire day through prayer. God's word has proven to be a trustworthy compass that helps me navigate through life.

**Prayer:** Dear Father God, thank you for your guiding hand and for your Word. Help me Father to understand what you are calling me to do and give me courage to follow through. Amen.



**Scripture:** *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28*

**Observation:** I believe this is true not only because the Bible says it, but because I have experienced it many times. It is so hard to remember and see when tragedy strikes or we are devastated by loss and sorrow.

**Application:** I will believe this mystery even though I don't understand it. Life can be hard, but God is good!

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, help me to remain faithful to you and to trust in your word. Amen

**Thoughts from Pastor Aaron:** The second writer today gives us a practical application of the first writer's thoughts. Feeding on the Word of God strengthens us to face times of devastation by loss and sorrow.

**Question:** *Are you feeding on God's word? Are you feasting or snacking?*

**Prayer Focus:** *The newly formed Equipping Team that is working on ways to help the church feed on God's word.*

# Man Does Not Live on Bread Alone

Friday, March 2

**Scripture:** *The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "* Matthew 4:3-4

**Observation:** The devil was tempting a hungry Jesus to turn stones into bread and eat. He prefaced his temptation with, "If you are the Son of God. . ."

The devil knew where to attack Jesus – on two levels. He tempted Jesus around his physical hunger, but also around, perhaps, a soulful hunger: the issue of identity ("If you are. . ."). The temptation was for Jesus to feed his belly but also to feed his ego, to establish his identity with a miracle, to test out and prove the gifts he had as a result of his connection to God. Jesus answered this temptation simply with the verse above.

**Application:** I can assume the devil knows where to tempt me also. He knows my weaknesses. He knows my hungers, both physical and soulful hungers. I want to be like Jesus and have at the forefront of my mind the fact that God is my provision – both for my body and for my soul.

**Prayer:** Oh God, teach me, stamp it on my heart and my mind, that you alone meet all my needs. I don't need to worry and strive, for your Word is bread enough for me. Your word has both power and life.

Because you spoke the world into existence with a word, I trust you to provide for my physical needs. You can speak into existence anything I need.

Because you have given Jesus as the Word made flesh, I trust you to provide for my soulful needs. He is the provision sent for me, for in him is life. Through your Word, you are both my provider and my provision. Thank you, good and beautiful God. Help me to feed on you.

**Question:** *What temptation are you facing? What Scripture can you stand on to help you resist?*

**Prayer Focus:** *Our church prayer: Father, unleash the power of the Holy Spirit to bring spiritual breakthrough in my life, in our church family and in our community. Fill us with humility, unity and passion. Let your kingdom come and your will be done. May the name of Jesus be held in high honor in all that we say and do.*

# I am the Bread of Life

Saturday and Sunday, March 3-4

Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you as read and reflect on John 6:1-51. Pick one verse or thought and write a SOAP reflection.

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**P**rayers:

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**Prayer Focus:** *The Breakthrough Prayer Team that meets on Saturday*

## My Shepherd Provides Rest

Monday, March 5

**Scripture:** *God is my shepherd! I don't need a thing. You have bedded me down in lush meadows. You hand me quiet pools to drink from. True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction.. Psalm 23:1-3*

**Observation:** Wow! I have heard this a million times, but this version opens my eyes and my heart! This Scripture screams at me: GOD WANTS me to rest! And the resting place is spiritual, but looking at it as a lush cool quiet place captures my heart. I want to be there. I know I will never get where God needs me to go—until I take his offered rest.

**Application:** Lately I have been looking at the calendar trying to find a vacation slot. None pop out— But if I take a vacation, I am concerned that I might veer off course. On the other hand, there are so many changes rushing at me and I need to make sound decisions! I surrender! I will schedule a vacation.

**Prayer:** Lord my Shepherd, You are good and wise! Thank you for your Word and clarity today. I yearn to have the feeling of lush grass beneath me. I need your quiet to wash over me. Pave my path to rest.

**Thoughts from Pastor Aaron:** Today's writer reminds us that sometimes the most spiritual thing you can do is follow the Good Shepherd to rest. At times a good nap can be more refreshing than other more "spiritual" activities. Jesus encouraged his disciples to get away for rest: *"Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."* (Mark 6:31) He wants to shepherd you not drive you.

**Share your response to this SOAP reflection**

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**Question:** *Have you been burning the candle at both ends? Can you find time today to rest?*

**Prayer Focus:** *Those serving in the military*

# My Shepherd Wants Me to Rest

Tuesday, March 6

**Scripture:** *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.  
Matthew 11:28*

**Observation:** If we would only put all of our cares, burdens and stresses at the feet of Jesus, our cares and burdens would cease to have any power over us! God wants our problems! He desires us to bring everything to Him. Trust in Him!

**Application:** I realize in reading and writing this verse that “if I prayed about it as much as I talk or think about it”, my problems really would cease to be problems. I talk to my spouse, my Mom, my friends – but sometimes I don’t ask God for Him to remove my stresses. I do pray to Him about them, ask His guidance in giving me patience regarding the problems, but I don’t really give it over completely to Him. I am a control freak...but GOD is in control! GOD. IS. IN. CONTROL. I need to trust Him!

**Prayer:** Lord, please open my eyes and soften my heart. Help me slow down the craziness of my life and focus on “the good stuff”. Take my burdens from me and cause me to rest completely in you.



**Scripture:** *There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his...  
Hebrews 4:9-10*

**Observation:** This chapter encourages our rest, just as God rested on the seventh day after he created the earth and the heavens. Paul reminds us that God’s word is a sharp, two-edged sword that judges our thoughts, spirit and intentions.

**Application:** I’m glad to read this today as a reminder to get my rest and in doing so remember that even God—so busy with creation and endless imagination—took a whole day off to rest and see that “it was good.” I am certainly thankful for my Sunday afternoon nap when I have the chance!

**Prayer:** Lord, I know I do not rest, reflect and respond to your comforts and encouragement to relax. Much to do and never done. But you are the example for me and I should be obedient. Help me to set priorities and take breaks. Sundays are for your worship and I need to remember!

**Question:** *What rest does God want to give you today?*

**Prayer Focus:** *Those in college*

# I am the Good Shepherd

Wednesday, March 7

Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you as read and reflect on John 10:11-18. Pick one verse or thought and write a SOAP reflection.

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**A**pplication:

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**P**rayer:

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**Prayer Focus:** *Easter service at the Pavilion*

## My Shepherd Rejoices Over Me

Thursday, March 8

**Scripture:** *As a young man marries a maiden, so will your sons marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you. Isaiah 62:5*

**Observation:** What an amazing thought...the God who made us rejoices over us. I have been to many weddings in my life and I have watched the face of the groom as his bride comes down the aisle. His face is usually aglow. I have never seen a groom look disgusted, disinterested or dissatisfied. Yet how easy it seems to feel that God is not satisfied with us. We beat ourselves up thinking we should be better. As the bride of Christ, He has already chosen us. We don't have to try to measure up to a standard. He sees us with eyes of love. He rejoices over us. That frees us to simply accept his love and to love him in return.

**Application:** I need to rest in the fact that God rejoices over me. I make him happy. He takes delight in me because he loves me not because of what I can do for him. Like a shepherd who cares about the lost lamb, so God cares for me.

**Prayer:** Father, thanks for your love for me. I am glad you rejoice over me. Let me make you happy. As the bride of Christ, let my life bring joy to the groom.



**Scripture:** *But you, oh Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. Psalm 86:5*

**Observation:** David speaks to God in this way not only to praise God, but also to remind himself about how God has shown Himself to David in the past.

**Application:** Whenever we are sad, mad, depressed or just want to feel really, really good, we need to do what the song says and "count your many blessings, see what God has done". By choosing to look at God's faithfulness to us we can grow in our faithfulness to Him. We will be more likely to show compassion to others, be gracious even in difficult circumstances, keep our cool under fire and love fiercely.

**Prayer:** Oh, God, turn my bad moods and depression into praise for You and radical love for others. Amen

**Question:** *Do you know that God is not angry with you? He loves you!*

**Prayer Focus:** *Marriages in the church*





# My Shepherd Disciplines Me

Friday, March 9

**Scripture:** *No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:11*

**Observation:** Four days of August heat with no water scorch the yellow verbena blossoms into crackly, brown tissue. Green leaves curl in pain...black-edged and ugly. I must prune back their charred remains. Now the plant looks dejected and scraggly.

**Application:** Is this what happened to my life when I block the flow of His Living Water? Luxuriant, abundant, verdant intimacy with Jesus becomes dry-brittle-ugly without that stream. He must then prune the damage. For a time, I feel gawky, naked and ashamed before Him. But the open, restored stream of his love soon soothes and heals. Just as the buttery blossoms return in even more beauty than before, His beauty restores my life and magnifies him.

**Prayer:** Lord, I want the stream of Living Water to flow freely in my life. I need You. Without you there is no beauty in me.

**Share your response to this SOAP reflection**

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**Question:** *Have you ever felt that God was pruning you?*

**Prayer Focus:** *The church rummage sale this weekend*

# The Lord is my Shepherd

Saturday and Sunday, March 10-11

Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you as read and reflect on Psalm 23. Pick one verse or thought and write a SOAP reflection.

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**O**bservation:

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**A**pplication:

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**P**rayer:

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**Prayer Focus:** *Pastor Aaron, Pastor Bill and Pastor Peggy*

## Abide in Me

Monday, March 12

**Scripture:** *Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch can not bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. John 15:4*

**Observation:** Abiding (spending time with God) is essential if we wish to bear fruit in our lives. The fruit of the Spirit flows out of those who walk with God.

**Application:** I can tell when I am not abiding in God because curse words sneak into my speech. I was chatting with someone recently and dropped an “F-Bomb!” I almost forgot that I gave up vile speech—and afterward I knew it was a poor witness. I realized I had been a little swift in my devotion that morning. It was a check on my to-do-list, not an abiding event.

**Prayer:** Father, I want to reach my pillow each night without an offense against you. Guide me.



**Scripture:** *...but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. Mark 4:19*

**Observation:** There are three things that will choke the word in our lives. When someone chokes, the supply of life-giving air is cut off. If it is not quickly reestablished, you will die. What an accurate picture of our lives. God’s word is like air to us. It brings us life and if it is cut off, we will die. One can read the word and even study and meditate on it, but if we allow these three things in our life, we will not produce fruit. We must remain connected to the vine.

**Application:** I must not only read the word, I must guard my heart so the word will be fruitful. Wealth is deceptive. I must guard my heart against seeking wealth. If my desire is for only one thing, then I will have nothing to worry about. Most of our worries are focused on those three things that choke us.

**Prayer:** Father, make me a man of one passion and one desire. Don’t let me take my eyes off of you. Guard my heart.

**Question:** *Are you producing fruit for God’s kingdom? What are you doing to abide?*

**Prayer Focus:** *The United Methodist denomination*



# I am Weak, but He is Strong

Tuesday, March 13

**Scripture:** *I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:5-9*

**Observation:** I am weak, but God is strong and always dependable. I am often amazed at how I handled a stressful situation or how I made it through a difficult time in my life, but I only have to look up to find the answer to my amazement and wonder. O, how I love Jesus!

**Application:** I need to continue to pray and trust God at all times. I must live what I preach to my beautiful grandchildren. Stand firm in what you know is right—even when it is hard and you feel alone, because God is with you. You are not alone.

**Prayer:** Dear Father God, give me courage to live my life as you would want me to. Thank you for your promise to always be with me even when I fail you. Amen



**Scripture:** *The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men breath and life and everything else. Acts 17:24*

**Observation:** It seems sometimes in the church we think and act as if God can't get along without us. We need to defend and protect him (or so we think). This scripture is a reminder that we exist because of God. He loves us and wants us to love him, but he is almighty and all powerful.

**Application:** God doesn't need me to protect and defend him, he needs me to humbly serve. He has the future in his plan and in his hands.

**Prayer:** Lord God, please help me remember this truth and not to feel anxious about your church and the future. Amen

**Question:** *In what area of weakness in your life do you need His strength?*

**Prayer Focus:** *Our Bishop Gregory Palmer and our District Superintendent Linda Middleburg*

# I am the Vine

Wednesday, March 14

Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you as read and reflect on John 10:15:1-8. Pick one verse or thought and write a SOAP reflection.

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**O**bservation:

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**A**pplication:

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**P**rayer:

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**Prayer Focus:** *Sunday School Classes and Small Groups at FUMC*

## Producing Fruit

Thursday, March 15

**Scripture:** *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Ephesians 5:8-10*

**Observation:** Our lives are constantly bearing fruit. Some produce good fruit and others bad fruit. Before this verse, Paul has just explained what bad fruit looks like...sexual immorality, impurity, greed, obscenity, coarse joking, etc. Only those in the dark would produce fruit like this. However, we don't have to live as children of darkness. We can become light in the Lord. If we remain in the Lord, we will never produce the fruit of darkness. Jesus gives the secret to producing good fruit when he says that we need to stay connected to him like a branch to a vine. (John 15) If we stay connected to Jesus, we will produce fruit that reflects his nature or as this verse explains...that which is good, righteous and true

**Application:** I need to remember that I am no longer in the darkness. It doesn't just say that I am in the light, it says I am light, therefore, I can choose to live as one who is in the light. I need to find out what I can do to please the Lord each and every day. I suspect that finding out is as simple as asking. Surely God will not turn away from our desire to please him.

**Prayer:** Gracious God, thank you for taking me out of the darkness and putting me in the light. Let my life produce fruit that will please you.



**Scripture:** *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25*

**Observation:** The Lord wants us to persevere, encouraging each other now more than ever to be ready for his return.

**Application:** I will show others that I compassionately care about them, for this is what the Lord needs me to do. This will help to build his kingdom.

**Prayer:** Thank you Jesus for your confidence in me to be your disciple. Help me to love others just as you love me.

**Question:** *Is your life producing the fruit of darkness or the fruit of light?*

**Prayer Focus:** *People in your neighborhood who are not yet following Jesus*

## Really Good Fruit

Friday, March 16

**Scripture:** *Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. Matthew 12:33*

**Observation:** This scripture suggests that a tree is not judged based on the type of tree it is but rather on whether the fruit it produces is good and plentiful. A solid foundation, along with proper nourishment and physical conditions are important to ensure that a tree will produce bountiful fruit. Outside elements, such as pests, disease, and weather, can have a negative effect regardless of how much effort and care a farmer puts into a tree.

**Application:** This scripture really hits home to me living in today's culture and society. We are often very quick to lump people into categories without looking at them as individuals and the fruit they produce. Ironically, as Christians, we find ourselves, more often than not, victims of the same judgments. Politicians, news outlets, celebrities, and even friends and neighbors are quick to lump us all in as "those Christians" instead of looking at each of us as individuals and looking at the fruit we produce. Not all Christians are the same. Not all liberals or conservatives are the same. Not all Americans or Middle Easterners or Europeans are the same.

This scripture is a good reminder to me to continually nourish and feed my soul so that I can produce good and plentiful fruit for the kingdom. I need to spend more time doing all that I can for the kingdom instead of spending so much time worrying about others and what they are or are not doing.

**Prayer:** God, continually remind me to look at people as you see them, not as the world sees them. Remind me to look for the fruit instead of looking at labels. Help me to see as you see. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Question:** *How might you nourish your life so it bears good fruit?*

**Prayer Focus:** *The Bluegrass Concert tonight*

# Looking for Fruit

Saturday and Sunday, March 17-18

Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you as read and reflect on Luke 13:6-9. Pick one verse or thought and write a SOAP reflection.

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**A***pplication:*

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**P***rayer:*

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**Prayer Focus:** *The Church Staff*

## Holding On to the Truth

Monday, March 19

**Scripture:** *Therefore we do not lose heart, though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen. For what we see is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

**Observation:** This scripture has given me comfort in times past and throughout my chronic illnesses. It is helpful to think of chronic illness as a “light and momentary trouble”.

**Application:** I will keep an eternal perspective as much as I can. As a Christian, it is the only thing that makes sense, and the only way to live.

**Prayer:** Thank you Lord for sharing these words of eternal perspective.



**Scripture:** *A man's own folly ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the LORD. Proverbs 19:3*

**Observation:** The first part of this verse is a simple and true statement...folly ruins a life. We think we can sow wild oats and then reap a full and bountiful life. People abuse their bodies, ignore God’s rules and then face the consequences of their choices. A person’s life begins to unravel because of poor personal choices and they blame God for it. Why would our folly lead to rage against the Lord? Do we believe God owes us a perfect life? Sometimes we are surprised when bad things happen to good people. But why are surprised when bad consequences come to those who have made bad choices.

**Application:** I have seen too many lives ruined by little episodes of folly. I must guard my heart against folly. I want to live long and serve God for many years.

**Prayer:** God, help me to be faithful. Guard my heart from the folly of the world. Even more, guard my heart against raging against you.

**Question:** *Do you ever blame God for bad things that happen in your life?*

**Prayer Focus:** *Those who face chronic illness.*

# Deep Things

Tuesday, March 20

**Scripture:** *He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him. Daniel 2:22*

**Observation:** The context of this verse is that God has just revealed the king's dream to Daniel. This wasn't just an ordinary dream, but rather a dream that laid out God's plan for the future. When Daniel was asked to interpret the dream, he responded with this verse. He knew that God knows all things and could reveal the deep things of the king's dream. How deep the dream was...pointing to God's plan to bring one who would become the King of Kings forever. So much in the world around us is hidden from us. We don't really understand things like gravity, the working of an atom or the complexity of life. But God knows all these deep things. What is most amazing is that he reveals deep and hidden things. Is it possible that every scientific breakthrough is revealed by God? What deep mystery there is in the phrase, "light dwells with him."

**Application:** If God knows all things, then he knows me and all the struggles and joys of my life. He knows what lies in the darkness of my future. For all of us, the future is a dark unknown. We don't know what the future will bring, but what a joy to know that he knows what lies in the darkness. To dwell with God is to dwell with light.

**Prayer:** O Great God of Light, help me to trust you in the darkness. Reveal deep things to me. Help me to understand the hidden things in the Word. Give me insight.

## Share your response to this SOAP reflection

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**Question:** *What mystery would you like God to reveal to you? Have you asked him?*

**Prayer Focus:** *Leadership Team that meets tonight*

# I am the Way, the Truth and the Life

Wednesday, March 21

Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you as read and reflect on John 14:1-14. Pick one verse or thought and write a SOAP reflection.

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**O**bservation:

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**A**pplication:

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**P**rayer:

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**Prayer Focus:** *Linda Brown who is away at school in Kansas this week. (She is getting a master's degree in spiritual formation from Friends University.)*

## Truth and Life

Thursday, March 22

**Scripture:** *I am not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God for salvation of everyone who believes; first for the Jew, then for the gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from the first to the last, just as it is written: "the righteous will live by faith". Romans 1:16-17*

**Observation:** Challenges to Christianity abound and are seemingly everywhere (guess they always have been). The fact remains - truth is truth. Where do people think these things come from: peace, love, mercy, truth, justice, righteousness, and so much more?

**Application:** I will continue with my "magnificent obsession" – Jesus. You, Lord, are the answer to everything!

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, thank you for the gift of faith. I will praise your name all my days. Amen.



**Scripture:** *The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 1 John 1:2*

**Observation:** The author speaks of Jesus being the living word and life which dwelled with God before he came to us.

**Application:** I too have seen "the life" through my salvation. As I get older and see the darkness in the world increasing, I praise God that I have seen his Son and have been brought from darkness into light and from death into life. I now earnestly pray that for others, as I desire to spend eternity with them.

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for life—help me today to live this life you have given me worthy of the Gospel. Nudge me to share and proclaim your light and life as the Spirit leads me. Amen

**Question:** *In what ways have you seen righteousness growing in you as you live by faith?*

**Prayer Focus:** *Those on our Most Wanted Lists*

# Coming to the Father

Friday, March 23

**Thoughts from Pastor Aaron:** Today's writer reminds us that all are welcome to come to the Father. It doesn't matter who we are or what we have done. Any who are willing to get up and go the Father will be received with joy. Jesus' statement, "*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me*" is not exclusive but rather inclusive. ALL are invited to come.

**Scripture:** *So he got up and came to his father. But while he was a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him and ran and embraced him and kissed him. Luke 15:20*

**Observation:** Jesus told the parable of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the prodigal son in this chapter. The description of the son leaving with and then squandering his inheritance, living in poverty, then finding redemption from his father by asking for forgiveness and acceptance; the father's emotional celebratory and attentive love is one of the most remembered of Jesus' parables.

**Application:** There is emotion over a lost coin or sheep that is found, but it doesn't compare to the joy of a son who returns—"there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents." The joy is described in the parable of the son when he returns! All three parables impact any sinner today repenting and coming to know Jesus as Savior and Lord.

**Prayer:** Thank you, dear Father, for making my mind, heart, soul, spirit softened for and convicted by You at a young age. My spirit joins Yours in praise for my Savior, Jesus Christ, and I am so devotedly thankful for the blessings and opportunities You have given me. Give me continued and increasing fervor and fire to serve You and witness to others. I love You, Lord. Amen

**Share your response to this SOAP reflection**

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**Question:** *When do you need to run into the arms of your Father?*



**Prayer Focus:** *Mobile Ministry Unit*

# No Other Name

Saturday and Sunday, March 24-25

Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you as read and reflect on Acts 4:8-12. Pick one verse or thought and write a SOAP reflection.

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**O**bservation:

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**A**pplication:

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**P**rayer:

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**Prayer Focus:** *Pastor Aaron, Pastor Bill and Pastor Peggy*

## To Die with Christ

Monday, March 26

**Thoughts from Pastor Aaron:** As we go through Holy Week, it is easy to focus solely on Jesus' suffering and crucifixion. However, today's writers remind us that all who follow Jesus need to follow in his path and take up the cross.

**Scripture:** *Then Thomas said to rest of the disciples, "Let us go that we may die with him."  
John 11:16*

**Observation:** Thomas, who would later doubt the resurrection, was prepared to go with Jesus and die. He thought Jesus was probably going to his death in Jerusalem. He sometimes gets kind of a bad rap for being "Doubting Thomas", but what loyalty he showed, and what courage to support Jesus no matter what.

**Application:** When I have times of doubt or fear, I hope I can be as loyal and courageous as Thomas was. I want to follow and support Jesus all the time, not just when it feels good or convenient.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, you are the way, the truth, and the life. Who else could deserve my ultimate devotion and loyalty? Help and encourage me I pray, as one of your followers. Amen.



**Scripture:** *Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. Matthew 16:24-25*

**Observation:** Jesus is turning our natural thinking upside down. He is refuting our ideas of a "Self-made man," that we need to promote ourselves and manage things around us in order to get ahead. He is calling us lay that striving and self-focus down and follow him.

**Application:** In what ways am I desperately trying to manage my own life? What does living this way lead me to? Frustration? Manipulation? Defensiveness? Fear? Exhaustion? Alienation from God and others? Jesus trusted his Father and laid his life down for me. Can I trust God enough to do the same?

**Prayer:** Jesus, I lay down my striving to make my own way in life. Help me die to my own control of my life. Help me trust you that the true way to a good life to give myself fully to you and trust you to give me life.

**Question:** *How are you being called to pick up a cross and follow Jesus?*

**Prayer Focus:** *Those who are suffering*

## Astonished and Afraid

Tuesday, March 27

**Scripture:** *They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Mark 8:32*

**Observation:** Some were astonished and some were afraid. Perhaps they knew that going to Jerusalem would mean persecution and suffering. Jesus already told them more than once what would happen. He told them plainly that he would be killed. Is that why some were astonished? After all, Jesus was not being forced to go to Jerusalem. He was leading the way! Would it not be astonishing to watch someone knowingly walk into a death trap? Is that why others were afraid?

Or were they afraid to be seen following Jesus? By this time there was a lot of controversy about Jesus. There may be a cost to be paid for following him now. The religious leaders had publically stated that those who acknowledged Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. (John 9:22)

**Application:** Sometimes following Jesus is not easy. At times I will be astonished at where he leads me...perhaps even afraid. But I can rest in God's perfect wisdom and direction. Jesus knew exactly what he was doing when he led the way to Jerusalem. So Jesus knows what he is doing when he leads today...even if that leading takes me to a road of suffering.

**Prayer:** Father, teach me to trust you with my life. All I have is yours. Help me to follow.

**Share your response to this SOAP reflection**

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**Question:** *Are you astonished or afraid when you consider where Jesus wants to lead you?*

**Prayer Focus:** *Our sister church in Barbosa, Cuba*

# I am the Resurrection and the Life

Wednesday, March 28

Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you as read and reflect on John 11:1-44. Pick one verse or thought and write a SOAP reflection.

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**A***pplication:*

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**Prayer:**

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**Prayer Focus:** *For Easter services at all the churches in Marysville*

## The One Who Bears Our Burdens

Thursday, March 29

**Scripture:** *Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign LORD comes escape from death. Psalm 68:19-20*

**Observation:** There are three reasons to praise the Lord in these verses: He bears our burdens, He saves us and He provides escape from death. The last is obviously the greatest. Although everyone will die, those who have been saved will escape death. Jesus said, “whoever lives and believes in me will never die.” (*John 11:26*)

**Application:** If Jesus is willing to bear my burdens and to give me escape from death, I can trust him even when things don’t make sense.

**Prayer:** God our Savior, thank you going to the cross to save me. Thank you for bearing my burdens especially the burden of death. You are worthy of my praise.



**Scripture:** *Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign LORD comes escape from death. Psalm 68:19-20*

**Observation:** The author of this Psalm is praising God, who carries our burdens. The Scripture does not mention any size limits to the burdens that God will bear for us. It also does not put a limit on how many burdens God will bear.

**Application:** For such a simple sentence, this verse has a tremendous implication on our lives. We can live with assurance that we are not struggling alone. Our God is bearing our burdens with us daily. The word “daily” and where it is placed in this sentence is key. Had the word “daily” been placed directly in front of the word “burdens”, it would have a different meaning, indicating that God is only bearing our day to day burdens and not those of more significance. However, the psalmist praises God for bearing all of our burdens, regardless of their size, regardless of their number, and regardless of their duration. There is great comfort in knowing that I do not have to struggle alone.

**Prayer:** God, I praise you for walking this life with me. For bearing my burdens, so that I am not struggling alone. For bearing my burdens so that I might experience peace and comfort. Praise to you, O God, for all that you are, all that you have been, and all that you will be. Amen.

**Question:** *What burdens and fears do you find yourself carrying?*

**Prayer Focus:** *Maundy Thursday service tonight*

## Wicked Worship

Friday, March 30

**Scripture:** *Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. Mark 15:19*

**Observation:** Perhaps there are no two sentences in the Bible that are so mismatched. Two extremes that should never be placed side by side. Of course, the second sentence is mockery and not sincere, but that is why the contrast is so vivid. What is more degrading than to be spit upon? What is more honoring than to pay homage or to worship? They had just placed the crown of thorns on his head and then struck him many times. Each time the staff would pound the thorns deeper. As blood flowed into his eyes and mouth and then mixed with their spittle, they mockingly fell on their knees. This being the one to whom millions of mighty angels fall on their faces. How the angels must have looked on in horror at this mockery of homage...this wicked worship!

**Application:** How often are we like this? We spit upon Jesus by the way we live during the week. We disregard his holiness and then we come to pay homage on Sunday.

**Prayer:** God, guard my heart from such hypocrisy. Help me to be faithful and to pay homage to you everyday. Help me to live a life of true worship.

**Share your response to this SOAP reflection**

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**Question:** *Is there hypocrisy in you?*

**Prayer Focus:** *Good Friday services today. Community service at noon and FUMC service at 7:00 pm.*

## If Christ is Not Raised...

Saturday, March 30

Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you as read and reflect on 1 Corinthians 15:13-16. Pick one verse or thought and write a SOAP reflection.

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**Application:**

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**Prayer:**

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**Prayer Focus:** *Easter services tomorrow*