

40 Day Prayer and Fasting

**A Guide in Seeking Discernment
for a Season**

INTRODUCTION

Prayer

In life situations when big decisions are on the horizon, we normally turn up the intensity level of our prayer life. This is true in times of uncertainty when we face a crisis (health, financial, relational) also. In this season of discernment, we are turning our hearts toward God in prayer and fasting over a 40-day period. We are encouraging everyone to set aside time each day to reflect over the scriptures and pray. We have included a prayer focus in each section but only as a guide so that you can include your own prayers. Many devoted Christians use a daily devotional to experience a “quiet time” with God. This prayer guide can be an additional resource added to your normal devotional time or help you begin a devotional time in your own faith journey.

Fasting

The Bible has much to say about fasting. Fasting is a sign of penitence practiced by individuals or whole people in the Old Testament. Jesus, as part of his spiritual preparation, went into the wilderness and fasted 40 days and 40 nights. He also commended fasting as an ongoing practice for his disciples in the Sermon on the Mount. While fasting is often associated with Lent, Methodists have never limited fasting to Lent. The General Rules commend "fasting or abstinence" as part of the ordinances of God upon which all Methodists are called to attend as they are able. Fasting usually means eating no food for a period. Abstinence can also mean refraining from particular kinds of food, such as meat.

John Wesley fasted weekly, from Thursday at sundown until receiving communion on Sunday, as the Church of England expected its clergy to do. To Wesley, fasting or abstinence were ways to express sorrow for sin and penitence for overindulgence in eating and drinking. He commended fasting to all Methodists to allow more time for prayer, and he noted that fasting or abstinence was more meaningful when combined with giving to the poor. At the same time, he advised caution against extreme fasting and urged those in fragile health not to fast from food.

There are many different types of fasting. We are encouraging each person to fast for one day during each week over the 40 days. For example, you might plan to fast every Wednesday during the 40-day period. Some have medical conditions that may prevent them from fasting. But there are alternatives, such as fasting from TV, shopping, social media, video games, etc. The purpose is to focus our attention on God and allow time to listen and discern God’s direction. It is to engage more directly what Jesus prayed that we might perform God’s will on earth as it is in heaven.

This guide contains scriptures corresponding to each day over the 40 days period.

The first 10 days will focus on PRAYER (August 6th-15th).

The next 10 days will focus on FAITH (August 16th-25th).

The next 10 days on HOPE (August 26th- September 4th).

The last 10 days on LOVE (September 5th- September 14th)

A hymn or song is included for each day as a worship aide to expand the prayer theme.

A prayer focus is given for each day to incorporate all our ministry and missional endeavors over the 40 days .

There is also a space to include your own prayer concerns and reflections.

Prayer



PRAYER

Sunday August 6th

Jeremiah 33:3 - *Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you [and even show you] great and mighty things, [things which have been confined and hidden], which you do not know and understand and cannot distinguish.*

Song/Hymn: "Seek Ye First" Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you – allelu, alleluia.

Prayer Focus: New School Year: Students, Teacher and Administrators

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Monday August 7th

2 Chronicles 7: 14 - *If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

Song/Hymn: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior Divine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away, O let me from this day be wholly thine!

Prayer Focus: Church Staff

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Tuesday August 8th

Matthew 6:6 – *But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

Song/Hymn: "In the Garden" I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses. And the voice I hear falling on my ear the Son of God discloses. And He walks with me and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own. And the joy we share as we tarry there – none other has ever known.

Prayer Focus: Administrative Council

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Wednesday August 9th Suggested Fast Day

Matthew 26:41 – *Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

Song/Hymn : “Be Thou My Vision” Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art. My best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Prayer Focus: Prodissee Pantry

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Thursday August 10th

John 17:15 - *My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.*

Song/Hymn : “What A Friend We Have in Jesus” What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Prayer Focus: Ronald MacDonald House

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Friday August 11th

Ephesians 6:18 - *And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.*

Song/Hymn : “Lord I Need You” by Matt Maher Lord, I come, I confess. Bowing here I find my rest. Without You I fall apart; You’re the One who guides my heart. Lord I need You, O I need You. Every hour I need You. O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

Prayer Focus: Embrace Alabama (Children’s Home)

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Saturday August 12th

Philippians 4:6 – *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

Song/Hymn : “The Lord’s Prayer” (It’s You! – by Matt Maher) Father, let your kingdom come. Father, let your will be done on earth as in heaven, right here in my heart. Father, let your kingdom come. Father, let your will be done on earth as in heaven, right here in my heart. Give us this day, our daily bread. Forgive us, forgive us, as we forgive those who sinned against us, forgive them and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Prayer Focus: Family Promise (Helping homeless)/Baldwin Family Village/Dumas Wesley

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Sunday August 13th

Colossians 4:2 – *Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.*

Song/Hymn: “I Need Thee Every Hour” I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord. No tender voice like thine can peace afford. I need Thee, O, I need Thee. Every hour I need Thee. O, bless me now my Savior, I come to Thee.

Prayer Focus: Disaster Response/Recovery

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Monday August 14th

James 1:6 - *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.*

Song/Hymn: “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” Savior, like a Shepherd lead us, much we need Thy tender care; in Thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

Prayer Focus: Missionaries: Rob and Amy Ellis, Ronnie and Nanny Calvert (Ecuador) Zirkel Family (Cost Rica) John and Lisa Hamilton (Uruguay) Monica Maxwell (Asia) Teaming with Tanzania (Eris Soard)

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Tuesday August 15th

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

Song/Hymn: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" Joyful, Joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love; hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

Prayer Focus: Children Ministry Leadership

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Faith



FAITH

Wednesday August 16th Recommended Fast Day

Proverbs 3:5-6 - *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

Song/Hymn: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be. Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Prayer Focus: Children's Ministry Volunteers

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Thursday August 17th

Matthew 17:20 - *Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.*

Song/Hymn: "Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord" (Paul Baloche) Open the eyes of my heart, Lord; open the eyes of my heart. I want to see You, I want to see you. To see You high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory. Pour out Your power and love as we sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy!"

Prayer Focus: Children's Church/Children's Sunday School

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Friday August 18th

Matthew 15:28 - *Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.*

Song/Hymn: "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, and to take him at his word; just to rest upon his promise, and to know, "Thus saith the Lord." Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er! Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more!

Prayer Focus: Preschool Director/Teachers/Aides

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Saturday August 19th

Mark 9:23 - *Jesus said to him, "If you can believe? All things are possible for one who believes."*

Song/Hymn: "Oceans" (Where Feet May Fail – by Hillsong United) You call me out upon the water, the great unknown, where feet may fail. And there I find You in the mystery, in oceans deep my faith will stand. And I will call upon Your Name, and keep my eyes above the waves, when oceans rise. My soul will rest in Your embrace for I am Yours and You are mine!

Prayer Focus: Youth Leadership/Volunteers

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Sunday August 20th

John 20:29 - *Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

Song/Hymn: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise Him, for he is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration! Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him! All that have life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the a-men sound from his people again; gladly forever adore him!

Prayer Focus: Catapult (Jr High) Remedy (Senior High) Groups

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Monday August 21st

Ephesians 2:8-9 - *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

Song/Hymn: "Amazing Grace" Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see. My chains are gone; I've been set free! My God, my Savior ransomed me! And, like a flood, his mercy reigns. Unending love, amazing grace!

Prayer Focus: Senior Adult Leadership Team and Activities

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Tuesday August 22nd

Romans 1:17 - *For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”*

Song/Hymn: “A Mighty Fortress” A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right man on our side, the man of God’s own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he; Lord Sabaoth, his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

Prayer Focus: Traditional Worship Leaders and Services

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Wednesday August 23rd Recommended Fast Day

Hebrews 11:1 - *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

Song/Hymn: “Be Thou My Vision” Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Prayer Focus: Contemporary Worship Leaders and Services

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Thursday August 24th

Hebrews 11:6 - *And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*

Song/Hymn: “Jesus Paid It All” I hear my Savior say, “Thy strength indeed is small, Child of weakness, watch and pray, find in Me thine all in all.” Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe; sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

Prayer Focus: Adult Sunday School Leaders and Classes (Faith Builders, Agape, WaterMark, Grace Gathering, Beyond the Walls, Young Adult Class, Reliant)

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Friday, August 25th

1 John 5:4 - *For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.*

Song/Hymn: "It Is Well" When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul." It is well – with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul!

Prayer Focus: Sanctuary Choir/Belles/Music Performances

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Hope



HOPE

Saturday August 26th

Psalms 33:18 - *But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love.*

Song/Hymn: "I Stand Amazed" I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus, the Nazarene, and wonder how he could love me: a sinner, condemned, unclean. How marvelous! How wonderful! And my song shall ever be: How marvelous! How wonderful is my Savior's love for me!

Prayer Focus: Saturday Morning Men's Breakfast Group

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Sunday August 27th

Jeremiah 29:11 - *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

Song/Hymn : "Blessed Assurance" Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long!

Prayer Focus: Wednesday Early Morning Men's Group

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Monday August 28th

Isaiah 40:31 - *But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

Song/Hymn: "Trust and Obey" When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word, what a glory he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, he abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey. Trust and obey for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Prayer Focus: Sara Shephard Ladies Circle

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Tuesday August 29th

Romans 15:13 - *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

Song/Hymn: "Victory In Jesus" I heard an old, old story, how a Savior came from glory, how he gave his life on Calvary to save a wretch like me; I heard about his groaning, of his precious blood's atoning, then I repented of my sins and won the victory! O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever! He sought me and bought me with his redeeming blood; he loved me ere I knew him, and all my love is due him; he plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.

Prayer Focus: Solo Men's Group

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Wednesday August 30th Recommended Fast Day

Romans 12:12 - *Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.*

Song/Hymn: "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms; what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms. Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Prayer Focus: Agape Hands Puppet Team

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Thursday August 31st

Romans 8:24-25 - *For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

Song/Hymn: "Blessings" (Laura Story) We pray for blessings. We pray for peace, comfort for family, protection while we sleep. We pray for healing, for prosperity. We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering. And all the while, You hear each spoken need. Yet love is way too much to give us lesser things. 'Cause what if your blessings come through raindrops? What if Your healing comes through tears? What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near? And what if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise?

Prayer Focus: Congregational Care Teams

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Friday September 1st

Ephesians 1:18 - *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.*

Song/Hymn: "How Great Thou Art" O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

Prayer Focus: Westminster Village Outreach

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Saturday September 2nd

Colossians 1:27 - *To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

Song/Hymn: "In Christ Alone" (Donald A. Koch) In Christ alone, my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song. This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease. My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand. In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe. This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save. 'Til on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied. For every sin on Him was laid, here in the death of Christ I live!

Prayer Focus: Grief Share and Divorce Care

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Sunday September 3rd

Hebrews 10:23 - *Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.*

Song/Hymn: "I Will Rise" (Chris Tomlin) There's a peace I've come to know, though my heart and flesh may fail. There's an anchor for my soul; I can say "It is well." Jesus has overcome and the grave is overwhelmed. The victory is won; He is risen from the dead. And I will rise when He calls my name. No more sorrow, no more pain. I will rise on eagles' wings, before my God fall on my knees and rise. I will rise.

Prayer Focus: Kids Eatz/Soles 4 Soles

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Monday September 4th

1 Peter 1:3 - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

Hymn/Song: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall; bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all. Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all!

Prayer Focus: Staff Parish Relations Committee

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Love



LOVE

Tuesday September 5th

Psalm 63:3 - *Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.*

Hymn/Song: "To God Be the Glory" To God be the glory, great things he has done! So loved he the world that he gave us his son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that all may go in. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he has done.

Prayer Focus: Trustees Committee

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Wednesday September 6th Recommended Fast Day

Proverbs 17:17 - *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.*

Hymn/Song: "Jesu, Jesu" (Hymnal #432) chorus – Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you. Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet, Master who acts like a slave to them. Neighbors are rich and poor, neighbors are black and white, neighbors are near and far away. Loving puts us on our knees, serving as though we are slaves, this is the way we should live with you.

Prayer Focus: Finance Committee

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Thursday September 7th

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 - *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.*

Song/Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down. Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art. Visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Prayer Focus: Nominations Committee

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Friday September 8th

1 John 4:7-9 - *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.*

Song/Hymn: "This Little Light of Mine" This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine, this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine; this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. Everywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine, everywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine. Everywhere I go, I goin'a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Prayer Focus: Wednesday Night Suppers/ Volunteers

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Saturday September 9th

John 3:16 - *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

Hymn/Song: "Glorious Day" (Casting Crowns) One day when heaven was filled with His praises, one day when sin was as black as could be, Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin, dwelt among men my example is He. The Word became flesh and the light shined among us - His glory revealed! Living He loved me, dying He saved me, buried He carried my sins far away. Rising He justified, freely forever. One day He's coming, O glorious day! O glorious day!

Prayer Focus: National and World Leaders

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Sunday September 10th

Romans 5:8 - *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Hymn/song: "How Deep the Father's Love for Us" (Stuart Townend) How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure, that He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure. How great the pain of searing loss – The Father turns His face away, as wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Prayer Focus: Unchurched people, the Lost

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Monday September 11th

Romans 13:8 - *Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.*

Hymn/Song: "Servant Song" (Richard Gillard) Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you. Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too. We are pilgrims on a journey, we are brothers on the road. We are here to help each other, walk the mile and bear the load. I will hold the Christ light for you, in the night-time of your fear. I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

Prayer Focus: Sick and Infirm

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Tuesday September 12th

1 John 3:1 - *See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*

Hymn/Song: "Jesus Loves Me This I Know" Jesus loves me, this I know for he Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong. Chorus - Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me – the Bible tells me so. Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way, wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live.

Prayer Focus: Those struggling with addictions and depression

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Wednesday September 13th Recommended Fast Day

Matthew 5:43-48 - *You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Song/Hymn: "Make Me A Servant" (Kelly Faye Willard) Make me a servant, humble and meek. Lord let me lift up those who are weak. And may the prayer of my heart always be, "Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today."

Prayer Focus: Bible Studies and Small Groups (Monday, Wednesday morning and evening, Thirsty Thursday, Bread of Life ChristCare Group)

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____

Thursday September 14th

John 15:9-17 - *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit-fruit that will last-and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.*

Song/Hymn: "Freely, Freely" God forgave my sin in Jesus' name, I've been born again in Jesus' name, and in Jesus' name I come to you, to share his love as he told me to. Chorus- He said, "Freely, freely you have received, freely, freely give. Go in my name, and because you believe, others will know that I live." All power is given in Jesus' name, in earth and heaven in Jesus' name, an in Jesus' name I come to you, to share his power as he told me to.

Prayer Focus: Those Searching For the Love of Christ

Personal Prayers/Reflections: _____



we are
HIS PEOPLE,
THE SHEEP OF
His pasture
PSALM 100:3