

Sunday, February 15, 2015

Read Psalm 100

Reflect Take time to savor each of these words in Psalm 100 -- joy, worship, Lord, gladness, come before, joyful, know, his people, sheep of his pasture, enter, thanksgiving, praise thanks, good, loves endures forever, faithfulness continues.

Pray Ask God to examine your heart and transform the ways in which your worship of God does not reflect the words and spirit of this psalm. Ask God to fill your heart with joy. Give thanks to God for giving us 10,000 reasons to praise!

Act Gather with your church family at Lafayette to offer yourself in worship to God and to offer encouragement to God's family.

Monday, February 16, 2015

Read Galatians 5:19-21

Reflect What words from this passage catch your eye as you read them? Do you see words that remind you of a past for which God has forgiven you? Do you see words that convict you of current fleshly behavior?

Pray Give thanks that God is quick to forgive. Give thanks that God remembers our sins no more. Confess your sins to God. Ask God for forgiveness. Ask God to create in you a clean heart.

Act Choose today to stay out of situations that have in the past led to sin. Share your struggle with a Christian brother or sister or with an elder or minister. Stop playing with sin and begin recognizing the damage that sin can do in your life.

Tuesday, February 17, 2015

Read Psalm 51

Reflect What word, words, or phrase from this Psalm catch your attention? Why do you think those words caught your eye? When is the last time you poured out your heart to God in confession?

Pray Read the psalm again, stopping at the end of each verse or sentence long enough to repeat the words as your own prayer. Be real with God about what is going on in your heart, mind, and life.

Act Write your personal "Psalm 51." In other words, write a song, poem, or prayer to express your frustration with sin, your need for forgiveness, and your trust and dependence on God. Keep it real. Don't hold back.

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Read Psalm 145:8

Reflect After reading the verse, complete the following sentence. God is.... Is your answer surprising? Did you know these phrases in Psalm 145:8 are used repeatedly in scripture to describe God? Do we sometimes buy into distortions of God?

Pray Express thanks for God's compassion, grace, and love. Give thanks to God for the times you have experienced that "slow to anger" side of God.

Act Identify someone towards whom you have a tendency to feel judgmental. Build compassion by recognizing that person's story. Slow your roll to judgment. What would it look like to treat that person with grace and rich love? Do it!

Thursday, February 19, 2015

Read Mark 2:13-17

Reflect Contrast the ways Jesus and the Pharisees viewed and treated people. Notice the dinner Jesus enjoyed with sinners was not a fluke, it was Jesus acting on his purpose.

Pray Praise God for sending Jesus so we would know how God felt about sinners, including us. Give thanks for the sinners you know and the opportunity they provide for you to be like God.

Act Plan to show hospitality to some notorious person this week. Reach out to someone that "holier than thou" people would avoid or even shun. When you are with them, seek to listen to their story, not to lecture them. Love listens.

Friday, February 20, 2015

Read Matthew 7:1-5

Reflect Jesus invites us to reflect on how we treat sinners. Part of that process is considering how we would feel if we were treated the same we are treating others. How do you want to be treated when you sin, by God and others?

Pray Thank God for God's gentleness, compassion, mercy, and love. Confess times when you have passed judgment on others. Ask God to change the way you view sin in yourself and in others.

Act Sometimes we don't know how to respond to sin in our on life, much less the life of another. Try to incorporate this new rule of life: when it comes to dealing with sin in the life of another, I will try to err on the side of grace rather than judgment. I will be strict on myself and lenient on others rather than lenient on myself and strict on others.

Saturday, February 21, 2015

Read Psalm 100

Reflect Remember this sweet psalm from earlier in the week? To prepare for our worship gathering tomorrow, again take time to savor each of these words in Psalm 100 -- joy, worship, Lord, gladness, come before, joyful, know, his people, sheep of his pasture, enter, thanksgiving, praise thanks, good, loves endures forever, faithfulness continues.

Pray Ask God to prepare your heart for the worship gathering, that you might go to the gathering to give to God and others, without the expectation of personal benefit. Prepare to worship with joy and gladness!

Act Clear out some time -- be it 5 minutes or an hour -- to be still, be quiet, and reflect on the awesome opportunity we have tomorrow to gather for worship on "the Lord's Day." We get to share grace with God's family. We get to share the sacred meal and the sacred word. We get to share our possessions as we worship God with our offerings, Give God room to work in your heart and prepare you for the gathering. When we do that, God prepares us for the scattering; that is, God will fill our hearts with God's love in the gathering so that we can pour out God's love



Lafayette Church
of **Christ**

*Spiritual exercises to encourage our relationship
with God and others by*

Bearing Fruit

Part 1



February 15 – 21, 2015