

As you and your family enter into the summer months, you are invited to join with the FCCOE community in reading through the letters of Philippians and Ephesians. Each weekday, there will be a **song** to sing, a **text** to read, a **truth** to remember, a **prayer** to offer, and an **action** to consider. Together, let's adopt this daily rhythm of family worship so that we will be united in spirit and in mind, even if we continue to remain apart in body.

Also, on a personal note:

It is my prayer that this time would offer you opportunities for rest and renewal in your relationship with Jesus. I am praying for you daily. I pray that the Spirit of Jesus Christ would continue to cultivate the fruit of Christlike character in you: his love, his joy, his peace, his patience, his kindness, his goodness, his faithfulness, his gentleness, his self-control. Do not be afraid in these uncertain times, friends, but continue to conduct yourselves with gentleness and gratitude. The Lord is near. The Lord is working. He is bringing all things together for his glory and for your good.

Your servant in Christ,
Jason Lawrenz

Song	Text	Truth	Prayer	Action
Monday, 7/27 "Broken Vessels" https://safeYouTube.net/w/rc18	Ephesians 2:1-3	Sin makes a person into a spiritual zombie. In these verses, Paul describes the situation of every human being before they receive God's grace and trust in Jesus: because of sin, every human being is <i>the walking dead</i> . Sin is not just bad stuff you do - it is a corrupting power that has brought about the decay of your heart and soul. Sin	Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of today. Thank you for the reminder from your Word of how desperate my situation is when I am left to my own devices. Help me to remember today, and every day, that living in sin can only lead to death - and turning to Christ is the only way to experience true life. In Jesus' name, Amen.	Take a moment today to confess your sin to God. (Do not wallow, but rest in the promise that he forgives his children and raises them from death to newness of life.)

		<p>makes us look on the inside how a zombie looks on the outside. And the comparison doesn't stop there: just as a zombie is trapped in the pursuit of death, the sinful soul is trapped in the pursuit of passions and desires that bring death. Friends, we need to hear this truth so that we better understand just how merciful God is. He sees us in our deadness, and he <i>loves</i> us. He loves us so much, in fact, that he chooses to pursue us, to break us free from sin's entanglements, and to give us new life. Jesus came to make dead people alive.</p>		
<p>Tuesday, 7/28</p> <p>"Living Hope" https://safeYouTube.net/w/gSq2</p>	<p>Ephesians 2:4-7</p>	<p>God is rich in mercy.</p> <p>Too often, we assume that God is quick to get angry and slow to show mercy. We assume, in other words, that God is like us. But in these verses, we are corrected. God is rich in mercy toward you. Unlike his anger, God's mercy needs no provocation.</p>	<p>Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of today. Thank you for the immeasurable riches of your mercy. Your heart is an eternal, unending wellspring of lovingkindness. Reshape my imagination of you today, Lord. I do not want my idea of you - I want you as you truly are. In Jesus' name, Amen.</p>	<p>Write "rich in mercy" and display those words prominently today.</p>

		<p>God is so rich in mercy that his mercy overflows from his heart to you. The <i>riches</i> of his mercy, his love, and his grace, are “immeasurable.” Even when you were dead in your trespasses, God made you alive in Christ. Today, dear friend, do not continue to wrongly imagine God as quick to anger and slow to mercy - this is a myth, an idol, an attempt to mold God in your own image. Instead, allow the truth of God’s Word to sanctify your imagination of him: he is <i>immeasurably rich</i> in mercy, grace and love. Set your eyes upon Christ, and see that this is his heart toward you.</p>		
<p>Wednesday, 7/29</p> <p>“This Is Amazing Grace” https://safeYouTube.net/w/3JB2</p>	<p>Ephesians 2:8-9</p>	<p>Salvation is a gift from God.</p> <p>Paul already spoke vividly of the horrible predicament that every sinful person faces. He has also spoken beautifully of the riches of God’s grace and mercy toward sinful people whom</p>	<p>Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of today. Thank you for your grace that goes beyond my understanding. Let every thought, word, and deed of mine today give <i>you</i> all the praise and the honor and the glory that you deserve. In Jesus’ name,</p>	<p>Can you give an undeserved gift to someone today? (and therefore be reminded of God’s gift of salvation to you that you did not deserve)</p>

		<p>he loves. In verses 8-9, therefore, Paul reminds us of a basic truth that we <i>must not forget</i>: There was nothing you could do to save yourself from sin's entanglements, and there is therefore no credit that you can take for your salvation. You did not deserve God's favor; he chose to give it because he loves you. Dear friend, remember today that your life in Christ (and apart from sin) is a gift from God. Take every opportunity to praise God today for such amazing grace.</p>	Amen.	
Thursday, 7/30	Ephesians 2:10	<p>God has saved you so that you might fulfill the purpose for which he designed you.</p> <p>In this verse, you are described as God's "handiwork" or "workmanship." To put it a bit more poetically, you are the masterpiece of the Master Craftsman. Before he made anything, he had your form and your function perfectly in his mind. He</p>	<p>Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of today. Thank you for having a grand vision for all of creation, and thank you for having a specific purpose for me within that grand vision. Help me to pursue your will for my life today by obeying your Word, showing your love to my neighbor, and praising your Name with all that I do. In Jesus' name, Amen.</p>	<p>What can you create today (and therefore be reminded of how God created you)?</p>

		<p>knew exactly what he was doing when he made you. He made you for a purpose; and though sin has sought to thwart that purpose, now God has saved you in Christ so that you might fulfill the purpose for which he has made you. He has lovingly and intentionally made you. His will for your life is perfect; choose to walk in his ways today.</p>		
<p>Friday, 7/31</p> <p>“All the Poor and Powerless” https://safeYouTube.net/w/bTq2</p>	<p>Ephesians 2:11-13</p>	<p>Christ died to draw people near to God who were “far off.”</p> <p>In these verses, Paul rehearses a bit of the Ephesian Christians’ story. Most of them were Gentiles, recent converts to faith in Christ that had little or no understanding of God’s promises to Israel. They were those who were “far off” - but by the blood of Christ, they were brought near. In every generation of the Church, there are those who are born into families of faith and those born into</p>	<p>Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of today. Thank you for your global vision to bring people from every nation, tribe, and language into your eternal kingdom. Align my heart with yours. Remove any speck of exceptionalism, elitism, or ethnocentrism. Fill me with your Spirit so that I would share the love of Christ with gentleness and generosity wherever I go. In Jesus’ name, Amen.</p>	<p>Can you share the story of how you came to know Jesus and his love with someone today?</p>

		<p>families who are “far off.” Jesus came for ALL people - not just those who were fortunate enough to be born into the right family in the right part of the world. This is why God sends his people out on mission. Paul reminds the Ephesians of this truth here so that they, like him, might be ready and willing to share the message of God’s peace and love with <i>anyone</i> around them. Are you and I willing to share that message as well? Who are we more hesitant to share the good news of Christ with? Why?</p>		
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