

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
<b>Monday, 6/22</b> "Ever Be" <a href="https://safeYouTube.net/w/zrq2">https://safeYouTube.net/w/zrq2</a>	<b>Philippians 2:9-11</b>	Jesus alone is worthy of all praise.  All things were made through Jesus. Nothing was made without him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Incredibly, the one who made all things and holds all things together decided to make <i>himself</i> nothing, and then die - so that you and I and all things might be	Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of today. You made all things. You hold all things together. You made this day, this hour, this minute - and every moment after this as well. Help me to praise you with each new breath that you give me. In Jesus' name, Amen.	Can you spare an extra 5 minutes today to sing another praise song to God?

		brought to new life. If there is anything excellent or worthy of praise, it is this: Christ Jesus died to save sinners.		
<b>Tuesday, 6/23</b>  "Our God" <a href="https://safeYouTube.net/w/Lml8">https://safeYouTube.net/w/Lml8</a>	<b>Philippians 2:12-13</b>	<p>God has already paved the road of your life; you get to walk where that road leads.</p> <p>These verses bring two important truths together: God is working out his will in your life, and you are invited to participate in that work. Like the metaphor stated above, God has set the course of your life. He knows your destination, he knows the route that is best, and he will get you there. With that knowledge, what else could you do but get up and start walking down the path that he has laid for you by obeying his Word?</p>	<p>Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of today. Thank you for your providential care for each of us. Help me to trust that you have already ordered my steps - and give me the faith to stand and take my steps today in obedience to your Word and your will. In Jesus' name, Amen.</p>	<p>What has God already led you through? Think back on the journey that he has led you on thus far, and thank him.</p>
<b>Wednesday, 6/24</b>  "How Great Thou Art" <a href="https://safeYouTube.net/w/YUx3">https://safeYouTube.net/w/YUx3</a>	<b>Philippians 2:14-18</b>	<p>The light of Christ shines brightly as you cling tightly to his Word.</p> <p>These verses contrast a life that casts shadows with a life that shines brightly.</p>	<p>Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of today. Thank you for shining your light into our hearts, exposing the sin that needed to be washed away and igniting the fire of devotion to you within us.</p>	<p>Try this <a href="#">craft</a> today - as a reminder of your calling to be what God shines his light in and through so that the world will come to know him.</p>

		<p>Grumbling and arguing mark a life that is shrouded, and that shrouds others. Gratitude and gentleness mark a life that is illumined, and that illumines others. Following the good example of Christ, and learning from the bad example of the Israelites in the wilderness, shine like stars by hearing God's Word and putting it into practice.</p>	<p>May your love shine through us into the world as a beacon, drawing all kinds of people to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.</p>	
<p><b>Thursday, 6/25</b></p> <p>"Be Thou My Vision"</p> <p><a href="https://safeYouTube.net/w/SJB2">https://safeYouTube.net/w/SJB2</a></p>	<p><b>Philippians 2:19-24</b></p>	<p>The proof that you have received from Christ is that you serve like Christ.</p> <p>In these verses, Paul introduces us to his apprentice, Timothy. We are meant to imitate Timothy, and specifically in the way that he shows "genuine concern" for the welfare of others. This is the mark of a person who has been transformed by the Spirit of Christ: they experience a change in their inner motivations. Whereas they used to only put others first out of politeness or duty or</p>	<p>Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of today. Make today a day when my inner motivations continue to be transformed. Help me to want what you want and love what you love. Help me to grow in my instinct to love and listen to others out of genuine concern for their welfare, and not because I am hoping to benefit from treating them well. In Jesus' name, Amen.</p>	<p>Do something nice (and perhaps unexpected) for a loved one today - but with no expectation of receiving something in return.</p>

		some other ulterior motive, now they choose to put others first because they know how Christ did the same for them.		
<b>Friday, 6/26</b>  "Great Are You, Lord" <a href="https://safeYouTube.net/w/7pq2">https://safeYouTube.net/w/7pq2</a>	<b>Philippians 2:25-30</b>	<p>"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."</p> <p>The truth above is one of my favorite quotes from Church History. It was written by a young man in 1949 who would go on to give his life to share the Gospel with unreached peoples. He was willing to sacrifice his body for the sake of the ministry of the Gospel. So it was with Epaphroditus, who we meet in these verses. He was a messenger sent by the Philippians to bring support to Paul, and he nearly died on his journey - but he did not turn back. Are we the kinds of Christians who will turn back at the first sign that we might face harm for sharing the love of Christ, or are we those who will persevere (as Christ did),</p>	Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of today. Thank you for the gift of my body. Help me to use my life in this body to serve you and serve others. Give me wisdom and courage to prioritize the ministry of the Gospel over the pleasures or comforts of the flesh. In Jesus' name, Amen.	Will you reach out to a neighbor today with the specific desire to share the love and message of Christ?

		knowing that the pains of this life are temporary but the joys of heaven are eternal?		
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