

Today:
August 17, 2014

Scripture Focus:

If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care— then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion. Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God the Father.

(Philippians 2:1-11, Message)

Notes from Worship:

(What caught your attention? What do you want to reflect on more this week?)

Notes from Formation Station:

("Paul in Prison")

Discussion Questions:

- What do you find to be most significant about Paul's letters from prison?
- In what ways do you feel like a prisoner today? How are you longing for freedom?
- Paul had powerful prayers for the church: what are your prayers for the church?

This Week: **August 18-23**

Scripture Readings:

Monday 8/18	Tuesday 8/19	Wednesday 8/20	Thursday 8/21	Friday 8/22	Saturday 8/23
1 Peter 1-5	Hebrews 1-4	Hebrews 5-8	Hebrews 9-13	2 Timothy 1-4	2 Peter 1-3; Jude 1

Questions for Reflection:

These questions are meant to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also use this space to jot down other questions and insights gleaned from your reading.

Monday

- What is Peter most concerned about in this letter?
- According to Peter, where is true hope found?

Tuesday

- How did God speak through Jesus, God's Son (Hebrews 1:2)?
- How does God continue to speak through Jesus today?

Wednesday

- What does it mean for Jesus to be God's high priest?
- What is the significance of God's New Covenant (Hebrews 8)?

Thursday

- What was the significance of Christ's blood and sacrifice?
- According to Hebrews, what does Faith in Action look like (Hebrews 11)?

Friday

- What stands out to you in Paul's instructions to Timothy?

Saturday

- Who do you think are false prophets today (see 2 Peter 2)?
- What is the central focus of Jude's letter?

Scripture Memory:

As we continue to focus our attention in the New Testament, our third significant memory verse is **Hebrews 1:1-3a**. Over the next weeks, consider memorizing these verses as well as any other verses from the New Testament that especially speak to you. For example, consider memorizing some of your favorite passages from Paul's letters to the different churches.

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Next Sunday: August 24
Theme: Christ-Pentecost (*God Speaks*)
Scripture Focus: *Hebrews*